

Blue Fibers

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What happens when you're drunk and ride a dumpster into a pier? Bad stuff.
For this chap? Even worse stuff.

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A race down smelly lane

Everything happens for a reason. My parents used to say that. Why?

Back then I didn't know.

Now? I think it was so they could cope with all the shit thrown at their face...

"I think you had enough, sir." The bartender calmly dragged the almost empty bottle of alcoholic drink away from me.

"And I think I had NOT enough...." I reply as I drag the bottle back towards me...

"Besides! it's just one bottles of, whachamacallit..." I add as I turn to look at the label of said bottle with one eye half-closed.

"It's vodka sir, and it's the sixth bottle. So as I said, you had enough." The bartender responds just as calmly.

"God, I already paid you, so just let me get shit-faced in peace mister penguin. You get fired only once, and lose your house, only once~ So let me, celebrate! My new life by the dumpster fire..." I reply as I point the bottle towards him.

"I'm sorry to hear that, sir." The bartender answers, his eyes quickly shifting away from me, and then back towards me.

"You know, it's my first time drinking. And let me tell you, shit tastes awful, why do you people even drink? Are you masochists? But wait, that makes me a masochist as well? Do you penguins have a BDSM room in this joint for people like that?..." I turn the bottle to look through its hole as I keep speaking....

"No, sir..." The bartender responds flatly.

"Well what...." And just as I was about to speak, I felt a heavy weight on my left shoulder. Turning my head towards my left, I found a big hand resting on my shoulder. Following that hand, a bulky arm, to an oversized shoulder, and a bald head....

"Is there an officer problem?" I ask as I try to straighten myself.

"I'd like to ask you to leave the premises." The bulky man 'asks'.

I stare at the bulky guy, then at the penguin behind the counter, then at the bulky guy again.

"You guys multiply like rabbits...." I chuckle as I turn to look at my bottle. Only to find myself getting yoiked up.

"Oi! Hand's off the merchandise! It's fragile! Handle with love and care~..." I shout as the bulky man starts dragging me towards the exit.

And the moment the door opens, revealing the dark, night sky. He shoves me outside.

With an almost comical stepping, I keep moving forward with the momentum of the push, until I found myself next to a light pole, which I grabbed, or more like hugged with my free arm.

With the remaining momentum, I spun on the pole until I faced the bulky man that was now blocking the bar's entrance, arms folded, looking tough.

And while I was leaning on the pole.

"Sorry ma dude, but I don't sexy pole dance for dudes." I lift the arm holding the bottle towards him...

"Now come to think of it, I don't pole dance, at all..." I whisper right after...

"Go home". The bulky man blurts out.

"I would, but the bank stated otherwise." I answer as I lean off the pole, and start walking towards, God knows where...

... How did I end up like this...

To be honest, if you told me a couple of weeks ago that I'd be a smoldering wreck, I'd laugh it off. But living with minimum wage, means your world can get pulled from under your feet at a moment's notice...

"Matters not! I'll just reload the latest save and pick a different choice. Maybe I'll become a race driver this time around." I chuckle as I keep going down the street with unsteady steps...

Upon reaching the first intersection, I turned to look towards my right, at the downhill road that led to a pier.

"I could probably become a pro too! I can drive anything that has wheels!" I exclaim as I lift my almost empty vodka bottle, before looking at one of the big recycling dumpsters that were right next to me.

"Don't believe me?! Here! I'll prove it!" I shout towards the light pylon right in front of me, and then grab the dumpster, and move it towards the downhill road. Stopping right before the road started to go downhill...

"I'll race you down the sea shiny lanky boi! Get ready!" I shout at the pylon again as I push the dumpster one final time, and just as it starts picking up speed, I climb up on its side.

"To looooooseeee!" I shout again as the wind starts hitting my face...

"This car smells weird!" I chuckle as the dumpster loudly zipped down the road...

And, just as the dumpster was speeding down, I grabbed the lid to balance myself. Which ended with me accidentally opening the said

lid slightly. Causing a random, empty nylon bag to fly off from inside the dumpster, and right into my face...

"Ha! Weak Sauce! I don't even need to see to beat you ya damn lanky!" I scream as I lift the vodka bottle in the air....

And, after a few seconds. A thud, and the road was no longer downhill, the sound of wheels running on wooden planks.

"And the winner is..." And with a loud crash, I was in the air....

"Meeeeeeeeee!"

(... You know, I just remembered. I don't drive...)

-SPLASH-

And the last thing I felt, was cold water...

...

..

..

...

(People make stupid decisions all the time...

But getting jettisoned into the sea while riding a dumpster, all the while having a nylon bag stuck to my face? And while also being shit dead drunk? That was definitely a new one for me.

What are the chances I drowned now? Pretty high I'd recon...

While I do consider myself to be a good swimmer, I don't think it counts when you can't feel your whole body...

So, this is how the afterlife feels huh? Hmm, I gotta say, seems pretty, boring. Where are the superpowers? Where are the waifus? Where is my flying aircraft carrier?

All I can see is pitch blackness, though I do hear seagulls. Wait, seagulls? Why are there friggin flying chickens in my afterlife?! Except, if this is hell. I mean, never really believed in all this stuff, but. I can't really deny it now, can I?..)

"Hey Mataro look! Some weird dude passed out on the beach!" A kid's voice then echoes.

(Ughh, hell has kids too. Not, much of a surprise on that either though, fucking runts...)

"It's boss you idiot! Call me boss! Now move! Search him before he wakes up." Another kid's voice echoes....

And, after the sound of footsteps on the sand. I started to feel something digging in my pockets...

"Hey, hey, I found his wallet~" A kid's voice speaks up again.

"You think salt water can ruin cash?" The same voice asks.

"I don't know, it does not matter, how much he got on him?" Another voice asks.

"He has, uhhh..." The other voice begins to speak, then, it stops.

"What, come on speak up. How much he got!" Another voice speaks up.

"Uhh, I don't know! His money looks weird! Look at them, some weird faces of old people are on it." The voice from before whines...

"What, let me look at it.... Uhh, where the heck did he pop up from, I've never seen cash like that. It says United States of America on it,

but it looks nothing like the bills they use from over there." The very first voice I heard then adds.

"Wow Mataro, how do you know that?" And yet another voice asks.

"Heh, what did you expect, I have connections kid, and of, Hey! I told you to call me boss you idiot!" The Mataro voice shouts.

(Ughh, loud little shits....)

With my eyes still closed, I move my hand towards my head with a groan.

"Oh shit! He's waking up! Bail bail bail!" One kid's voice shouts.

"Ye, yea!" Another responds. And after the sound of footsteps on the sand...

(Hmmm, silence....)

And, just as the beautiful silence was about to set, and take me away, I felt something weighing down on my chest...

And.

A very strong peck on my forehead...

"OWHATTHEFUCK!" I shout as I flail my arm, feeling it impact something, feathery.

Opening my eyes, I find myself looking at a rather vibrant blue sky...

"Ughh, the hell...." I groan as I lift myself to a sitting position. I then bring my left hand to my forehead, to find that it was still holding the vodka bottle...

"... I'm, never drinking again..." I groan as I throw the bottle towards the wide blue sea ahead of me.

"God, my head hurts..." I groan again as I bring both hands to my face...

After rubbing my eyes and taking a deep breath, I turn to look to my left, to find. A seagull. In a very awkward pose, its legs looking towards the sky, its body curved to a U shape, unmoving, other than the occasional twitch...

After blinking a couple of times, I turned to look straight towards the sea again and...

A highway. A very, tall highway, that extended towards the horizon...

"... The, crap? When did the government build this?" I ask as I tilt my head.

"Uhh, yea, I'm definitely never drinking again... :)" I groan as I get up with unsteady steps, my clothes being half dried and caked with salt, the other half being moist.

Overally, I don't think I ever felt more uncomfortable in my whole life...

"God, I should've at least grabbed a change of clothes before I got kicked outa my house..." I sigh as I tilt my head tap my ear.

"Hmm, maybe they didn't the locks yet, I sort of, didn't give all of my keys. So if I'm lucky, I might be able to get something..." I add as I take a deep breath.

"Yea, Ok let's do that. Return home, and..." I nod to myself and turn around...

"... What, the, fuck?...." Was all I said as I stared ahead.

"Ok, I know I drank a bit too much, but...." I whisper as I keep staring at the uphill road in the distance, or more correctly, the uphill mishmash of houses, all in various states of disrepair and seemingly stacked on top of each other...

"..." I just kept looking higher, and higher... and higher....

The buildings continued, and, and on. The land was seemingly a conic shape that became thinner the higher it went. All the while, the tall highway road was wrapping in circles around said mountain of houses, until it actually reached the top...

While keeping my eyes towards the top, I start moving towards the nearest set of stairs.

After leaving the sandy shore and climbing up the concrete stairs, I ended up on a narrow street that extended to my left and right, and ahead of me, on an uphill road, a brick paved road. And on that road, A sign that pointed straight ahead. The sign having the Japanese words [Honnōji Academy] on it

"..." I blinked a couple of times, then rubbed my eyes, then looked at the sign again...

[Honnōji Academy]

"Ha, that's weird..." I chuckle as I shake my head, and turn to walk towards the brick road. Only to stop a few steps later. I narrow my eyes as I run back to the Japanese sign. Then read it again...

[Honnōji Academy]

"... Why, can I read Japanese? And why do I feel like I'm about to have the biggest nope of my life?..." I frown as I fold my arms...

And as I was staring at the sign...

-Whack!-

Something crashed right into my head, before falling right next to my feet...

"Ow what the f!..." I grab my head with one hand as I turn to look down, to find my wallet.

"Next time carry real cash with you, you damn hobo!" A kid's voice shouts. Turning towards the voice, I found that said kid was standing on the ceiling of one of the buildings next to me. A kid that looked a lot like....

"Ma, taro?" I groan as I stare at the kid.

"H,huh?! How do you know my name hobo?!" Mataro shouts back.

"... Nope....Nuh-uh. I'm not fucking doing this. Fuck it. I, am, out. I'm going back to sleep." I throw my arms in the air as I turn to head towards the beach I woke up at...

"Whatever! Weirdo!" Mataro shouts, and turns to run towards the opposite direction on the roof, disappearing from sight shortly after.

"I'm just, going to sit here. And wait. Until I wake up for real." I sigh as I sit on the sand.

"I have enough problems. Dreaming about a crazy mom that's trying to turn everybody into clothes, stripping guys with shining pink nipples, and girls beating up everybody while dressed up like hookers? Yea, I'm not doing this, I'll have enough of a headache after I wake up from my damn hangover. I don't need an extra one from a friggin fever dream." I groan as I lie down on the sand.

"Can I dream about something fun please? Like owning a fucking house?" I whined as I closed my eyes.

The calming sound of the waves being the only thing I could hear now. And the occasional seagull...

HONK

"..." The disfigured seagull I slapped the first time I woke up was staring at me....

"..." And I was staring back at it...

"Honk." The seagull honks...

"... Seagulls are not supposed to honk..." I whisper as I keep staring at the poor excuse of a bird...

"HONK!" The seagull disagreed.

"STOP HONKING! YOU'RE NOT A FAKIN DUCK!" I shout as I point my finger at the messed-up bird.

"HOOOOOOONK!" The seagull felt oppressed and voiced its opinion.

"Hey mom look! There's a weird kid screaming at a bird on the beach!" A little child standing on the top of the stairs exclaimed as it pointed its finger towards me.

"Stop pointing at him Billy." The child's mother pulls the kid by its hand with a hushed voice.

"SEAGULLS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO HONK! AND WHO ARE YOU CALLING A KID YOU MIDGET-SIZED TWERP!" I shout as I turn towards the mother and the child. The mother slightly jumping in place in surprise as her eyes went wide, before quickly turning to walk away, dragging the little kid that kept laughing and pointing at me.

"... Seagulls are not supposed to honk, not from where I'm from at least..." I whisper as look back at the disfigured bird...

"Hooonk..." The seagull felt my pain and let out a comforting honk...

"So, this isn't a dream huh..." I sigh as I bring my hands to the back of my head.

"..." Without speaking I turn to look towards the mushed-up buildings over the stairs.

"God this is fucking ridiculous." I groan as I drop my hands.

"Let's just, accept the fact that we're here, no? Not much I can do about it." I fold my arms as I try to essentially convince myself.

"And, let's accept that we're as 'random Joe' as it gets..." I add as I turn to look at my hand. The years of wear and tear working a thankless job, gone...

(And I'm not a fucking kid. I, think...)

I sit back down on the sand and close my eyes.

(Ok, think, think. If you are asleep, big fucking deal, you'll wake up eventually and return to the real hell. Or you're in a coma then you like torturing yourself. Either case, I can't sit here forever. I have to think, to do 'something'...)

I open my eyes slightly and stare at the sand.

(Let's take things one at a time.

One, I'm in the world of Kill-la-kill. Two, I can speak Japanese. Three, I'm as average as it gets. And four, apparently I'm no longer a grown-ass man.)

I nod slightly as I keep thinking.

(Now in order to survive, I need to enlist to that dumb fucking school on the top of the island. No matter how much I hate the idea of going

to a militaristic school, or overall going to school 'again'. There's no other way to stay alive on this island.)

I lift my head to look up the stairs ahead of me.

(As it's that, or living in the slums and eating out of garbage dumps until Ryuko's crazy-ass mother brings in the clothe-pocalipses...)

I chuckle slightly as I lower my head again.

(And speaking of that, the only way to survive in that school is to get stronger, the only way to get stronger, is to wear clothes with life fiber....)

I shake my head as I slowly get up.

(Most importantly, I need to see 'where' I am in the timeline. As in, has Ryuko just arrived? Or are we actually one day before the end of the world and I'm totally hosed?)

I crack my back as I dust myself off.

(Hmm, I can't go asking around if anybody knows Ryuko though. Because let's be real, she might be fun to look at. But with how she tends to stick that half scissor to your face before asking questions? Yea, no thanks. If she's not here and I start asking about her, it's like I'm asking to get her abrasive attitude all over my face....)

I start going up the stairs.

(Hmm, so, how do I learn if she's here yet?)

The moment I reached the top, I turned to the left and start walking down the road with the sea to my left.

(I could find Aikuro and ask to join the nudist beach. That could give me some leeway for surviving this place. Though I'll keep it as a last resort, first because he is essentially a spy, so that could go wrong in a lot of ways. From not believing me, to getting found out. Second, I

had enough army grunt life to last me seven lifetimes. And third, I really don't want him to start stripping in front of me...)

And as I kept walking, it hit me.

(Wait a minute! Ryuko's father! The house! If it's not burnt down, then Ryuko is not here yet!)

I stop walking and turn to look at the highway.

(If I remember correctly, her house is not on the island, as it was in a rather spacious location)

"I need to find the Matoi residence..." I whisper to myself.

With my first target set, I. Kept wandering without a real destination...

-Ten minutes later-

"..." I was slowly strolling among the narrow, uneven slum roads, the buildings towering around me.

(This isn't working. I need information, how the hell do I even 'get' on the highway? Does the highway split later on? How far is it?...)

I groan under my breath as I keep walking.

(Hmm, Aikuro knows where the house is. The question is, how do I go about it?...)

As I kept thinking, the narrow road came to an end, leading to a wide road. The center of said road recessed. And on the recessed road, trams.

(Hmm, I remember these things. They lead to the school. Perfect timing.)

I quickly walk up to the empty tram and enter it.

(Bleh, this thing is rusty as hell, and no seats...)

I shake my head and lean against one of the metal pokes in it.

(More importantly, I need to think what I'll say to mister pink nipples when I find him. I can't go 'hurd dur tell me Ryuko house place, I kno things'.)

I chuckle slightly as I take a deep breath.

(Or, can I? No, I need to think of a reason. Maybe play it so that I have some info for his, experiments? He should know that only the nudist beach knows of all that. Will he know that I'm not one of them though? I mean, the place had a lot of grunts...)

I groan as I open my eyes.

(I could be upfront, say that I want to help Riuko's dad. If he's already dead, he will probably tell me that then and there....)

I nod slightly as I turn to look outside again.

The tram, with a slight bump slowly started to move forward.

-15 minutes later -

The tram was still slowly moving up, the only difference being, that now in the distance, the slum had been replaced by a much more urban area, with tall white buildings, rather than the mishmash the slum had for houses.

(I know Ryuko said it herself, but damn the difference is quite big between slum and one stars, and well, I suppose one star to two stars...)

I was looking outside, using my hand to lean the short, rusty metal walls of the tram. My target, the school, visible in the distance. Becoming bigger by the second.

-30 minutes later-

The school was now the only thing visible, towering over me...

(... Did I ever mention that I hate schools...)

I get out a small sigh as I keep looking at the tall building.

(God I feel like I'm going to the dentist.)

I shake my head as lean away from the tram's wall, walking to the other side of the tram, before walking back to where I was, then repeating the same action, again, and again. Essentially, walking back and forth.

(Maybe I should just stay at the beach, change my name to beach hobo, and make friends with the honking seagulls.)

And, just as to decide my next action, the tram stops, the floor next to it now smooth concrete. I, stayed in the tram for a few seconds.

(Ughh. Fuck it. Do or die. Wish me luck weird-ass seagull friend.)

I take a deep breath, and walk out of the tram, then turn towards the school.

The giant opening that led into the school grounds was straight ahead. The insanely tall walls that surrounded everything made you feel even smaller than you really were...

(Ok, Let's wait by the entrance, and out of sight. The last thing I need is a two-start chump sticking his nose at me.)

With that, I walk up to the entrance, and then turn around and lean my back against the wall, facing towards the tram.

(Ok, I'm not dead for touching the prestigious school's walls. Now, we wait....)

I let out a giant sigh as I relaxed my shoulders.

(Why couldn't I pop up in a better place, like I don't know. A pokemon world. Where you can get hit by thunder, get burned, thrown in frozen water, and laugh it off as 'haha, you're an ice cube now'. Also, you can essentially do anything as long as you got pokeballs...)

My thoughts then got interrupted by the sound of a loud bell.

(Oh sh! Ughh, the bell? Classes are over? Or is it a break? Uhh, ok, stay focused. If you see people leaving, back off and wait in the shadows until mister pink nipples pops up.)

With that, I move away from the entrance, and lean my back against the wall again.

A minute passed, then two minutes. Three, five, ten...

(Hmm, nobody is...)

-KABOOOM-

Before I could even finish that thought, a loud explosion. I, just froze in place, waiting to just get eradicated from existence. But, nothing, I was still there, and.

Cheering, shouting, and more explosions....

(The hell...)

I frown slightly as I carefully walk towards the entrance, then carefully turn to look through the gate.

The main field was overflowing with people. And in the distance, on an elevated stage. Two small figures were jumping around. An occasional flash, a random explosion mid air...

(... An arena? Fighting?)

I narrow my eyes as I try to focus as I keep looking, but to no avail, as other than the fact that the whole thing was just too far, the figures moved way too fast to keep track of...

(Uhh, don't concern me, head in the game, lest you lose it...)

I turn away from the entrance and return to the spot I was leaning on.

The noisy 'event' went on for a while. Until.

-15 minutes later-

Silence...

(Hmm? Are they f...)

" **ALL OF YOU! ATTENTION!** " An exceedingly loud voice shouted, loud enough that it honestly made me jump. And a few seconds later...

"I declare this duel finished! The winner, Arata Chida, head of the sharpshooting club!" A female voice booms.

(Everybody is so friggin loud here...)

And, after a few more minutes. The first person walked past the entrance, making a beeline towards the tram. Then another, and another...

(Ohh boy, here we go. Ok keep cool, you might not be part of the school, but you look like a slum resident, if need be I'll blend in.)

Slowly, the concrete field around the tram started to fill with people. People that all looked to be 'slum bred'.

(Hmm, I see no one starts. Do they have a different exit? I mean the tram here did head straight to the slums with no other stops...)

And just as that thought passed...

(Oh god, I hope Captain Nipples is leaving through this exit. Uhh, his house, how did it look? Slum level? Aaaa No, no,no no. His house in the anime looked normal, as if it was made from concrete and was painted white, no slum house looked like that. The thing that looked to be slum level was his hideout...)

I take a deep breath...

(Ok, I've gone this far...)

I kick off the wall, and head towards the nearest waiting person.

(I'll just have to a...)

"AAAAAA! Whatchoutwhatchoutwhatchout!" And before I could finish that thought, a girly scream from my left and...

-CRASH-

What used to be the sky, was now the floor, what used to be the horizon, was now the floor. What used to be the floor, was still the floor.

"Ugh... what..." I shake my head as I try to get up, to find out that I couldn't, as somebody was leaning on my sides.

Turning my head, I come face to face with a bowl-cut haircut brunette...

Her eyes closed with a pained expression.

"Awaaa, my head...." The girl whispers as she keeps leaning on me.

"..." I just kept staring at her in silence.

(First the little shit, now her. Who's left from the Mankanshoku family...)

"Are you going to get off me today, or?..." I ask as I keep still.

"Ah? Oh, hello." The girl blinks a couple of times as she focuses on my face.

"... So you're not going to get off me today.." I add as I keep looking at her.

"Oh right!" The girl exclaims as she springs back up with no effort.

"Are you alright?! Did you break anything?! Internal bleeding?! External bleeding?! My father is a doctor! He might have killed more people than he saved, but he can probably save you!" The girl asks as she keeps looking at me.

(... That's Mako alright.)

"Uhh, no, I'm fine. But thanks for askin." I respond as I get up, Then dust myself off, not that it mattered, my clothes were a mess to begin with.

(Wait, this is my chance!)

"Uhh, by the way, have you seen Mister Aikuro? I need to ask him something." I ask right after.

"Ai,kuro?" Mako asks as she tilts her head.

"Teacher, wears glasses, blue hair, looks sloppy." I respond.

"OHHH! Yea! I know him! He's my homeroom teacher." Mako responds and stays silent.

(... What are the chances he didn't use that name in the school. No, I remember he did in the anime...)

"Soo, have you seen him?" I ask again.

"Nope." Mako responds flatly.

(Oh for fucks sake...)

"I see, well, got to find him, so if you excuse me." I nod slightly as I turn to leave.

"He's probably still on campus. Wait I'll go get him!" Mako chimes excitedly as she turns around and starts running towards the school's main field...

(Damn that girl's more hyperactive than a squirrel on coffee. But, this could work for me.)

I nod as I glance around me, the people that had turned to look at the 'event' now turning to their previous distractions. I then return back to my 'hiding spot'. Looking at the slowly diminishing crowd.

And a few minutes later.

"Here! He's, uhhh..." A wild Mako appeared with my target in tow. She glanced around before turning around and finally, saw me.

"Ah! There you are!" She waves at me as Aikuro also turns to look at me. His glasses hiding whatever expression he might have had.

"Thanks. Mister Aikuro, can I have a moment? I want to ask something about the question I asked before." I fold my arms as I keep staring at the dude.

The man looked at me from head to toe...

"Uhh, I don't remember y..."

"About the beach I ssin went to stay at." I cut him off. Aikuro froze in place.

(Just went full 'hur dur I kno tings' didn't I?)

"Ah! Yes, yes, I remember now!" He quickly adds as he walks up to me, passing his arms over my shoulder as he keeps walking,

essentially forcing me to turn around and walk alongside him.

"Umm, can I go now?" Mako asks from behind us.

"Oh, yes, yes, thank you for bringing me here." Aikuro responds as he glances behind him.

And as we kept walking, and picked up some distance from the mass of people.

"Alright kid, who are you and what do you want." Aikuro asks with a hushed tone. A slight prickle on my neck, as Aikuro was pushing what I think was a needle against my neck...

(... Of course...)

" You don't know who I am, simply because I'm a nobody. What do I want? Is to stop being a nobody. I know you are working with Issing Matoi and the nudist beach. I want you to tell me where his house is. Because I want in. And stop pushing that damn needle against my neck." I responded flatly. Aikuro just stared at me in silence.

"Uhh, look, I already showed you that I know who you are. If I wanted to blow your cover I could just go straight up to the student council and ruin your day, instead of talking to you." I add as we keep walking.

"Keep moving forward, towards the lift gondola in the distance." Aikuro responds flatly.

(Jeez man. At least he ain't stripping...)

With that, we moved to the gondola that was meant for one stars, and after a few very awkward minutes. With Aikuro poking a needle at my neck, we reached the gondola, and entered it.

"Alright kid, where did you hear all that stuff from?" Aikuro asks yet again.

"Same place where I heard that Ragyo is a menace to society, life fibers are a danger to the world, Isshin has extensively researched said life fibers, and your base is located in Osaka. So, now I ask you, if I was here to mess up your plans, why isn't your base a smoldering wreck by now? I think Ragyo would be more than happy to learn all the stuff I told you, especially the place of your main base. As for how I learned all that? A friendly honking seagull told me." I fold my arms as I speak. Aikuro just keeps staring at me with a serious expression.

"Let's say I believe you. What is that you want." He asks.

"What I want is to not be unprepared when shit hits the fan, because shit will eventually hit the fan." I answer.

"All that info, where did that seagull find all that info?" He asks yet again.

(For fucks sake with all these questions.)

"No idea, didn't manage to ask. Apparently, some people don't like having secrets leaked." I answer as I take a sarcastic tone.

"I see. But why come here? Why not go straight to the nudist beach?" Aikuro continues to ask questions.

"You expect me to walk to Osaka? This place was closer. And do I look like the guy who could afford a car? Or a taxi?" I respond.

"Hmm..." Aikuro nods slightly as he takes a few steps back, then sits on one of the seats, not taking his eyes off me.

"Well, since you could have caused trouble if you wanted, I'll trust you. I'll call for somebody to bring you to our b.."

"No." I cut Aikuro off, causing him to slightly lower his head and glasses to look at me.

"As I said, I need to find Isshin." I add.

"Right, you never told me why. Why do you want to find him this much? If you want to help, then joining our movement will be enough." Aikuro folds his arms as he crosses his legs.

"Because your beach is doing this the wrong way." I answer as I also fold my arms.

"Ex, cuse me?" Aikuro tilts his head in visible confusion.

"I did my own research before coming here, I know that life fibers make, well, superhumans. Your nudist friends, they might make weapons that can battle them. But, they don't use life fibers themselves. All but Issey, who from the info I got, seems to be researching them, and apparently he's pretty damn good at it too... " I answer.

"If things are as grim as I think them to be, then it's not the time to pull punches. That includes using the same weapon your enemy is using." I continue.

(While the masses don't seem to know the danger of life fibers and the crazy-ass milf. I'm sure these people here do.)

Aikuro keeps his arms folded as he closes his eyes.

"Hmm, you know what? It's been a slow day, I'll bite, I'll take you to Issey. He can tell off your apparent suicidal tendencies himself" And he finally speaks up.

Mister guinea pig

(Well, at least I know I'm 'before' the start of the anime...)

I was with my hands in my pockets, looking at a big, good-looking house made of wood and stone, a sign on a pillar next to me reading 'Matoi residence'.

(Now the important thing is, when will Nui pop up to wreck the place? Past that point, I'll have six more months before Ryuko appears and the anime starts normally...)

Just as I finished that thought, the front door for the house opened. Aikuro appearing from inside.

"Come inside, Isshin wants to talk to you." He speaks up before disappearing inside the house again.

(Ok, time for stage two, and probably more lies...)

I take a deep breath, and enter the house. Ending up in a dimly lit, long hallway. A long carpet you'd normally see at your grandparent's house covering the floor, two short wooden cabinets to my left and right with some potted flowers and a couple of framed pictures in them, one of them being Ryuko her self, looking, not constantly angry.

"This way." Aikuro motions with his head as he enters a room to the left a little further in. Following him, I end up in what seemed to be a living room, two big sofas with an even bigger table between them, a chandelier swaying over the table. All the curtains in the room closed, giving the whole place a rather dim light as well.

And on the sofa that faced me. Ryuko's father, sitting in his weird old man disguise, his hands on his walking stick and his jaw resting on his hands.

"Sit" was all he said as he stared at me.

(Oh boy.)

Doing as he said I take a seat on the opposite couch. He then throws a glance at Aikuro.

"Before you ask me anything. Can I ask one thing first?" I speak up before anybody could begin.

Isshin, or more correctly, Soichiro turned to face me, and kept silent.

"The threat of life fibers, is it as big as I make it out to be?" I ask.

"And how big do you make it to be, kid?" Isshin asks.

"... World ending big." I respond flatly.

Isshin keeps staring in silence.

"I don't know where you found all the information you gave Aikuro, but. Your, hunch. Is pretty spot on." Isshin replies.

"So now I will ask you. Are you sure you want to be 'here' kid. If you want to help, then join the movement. This is no place for somebody who has not even finished highschool." Isshin continues.

"You can consider this disrespectful if you want, but your organization won't last an hour if it has to go toe to toe with a life fiber enhanced nutjob." I retort.

"Hey now." Aikuro groans with a frown.

"And why you think that?" Isshin asks again.

"Because a knife that can cut life fibers is useless if your foe can move faster than the eye can see, or fly, or rip up a building and use it as a club." I fold my arms as I lean on the couch.

"Oh? And what makes you think life fibers can do that?" Isshin continues asking questions.

"Because I saw two people fighting in that school Aikiro is at, and I could barely keep track of em. If I am to put two and two together. That school uses life fibers to enhance student's abilities, and your friend is there to spy on their progress." I answer.

Isshin closes his eyes, and lets out a sigh.

"Then, I will put it simply. My research is dangerous, and it might as well kill you today. Because the only thing I need right now, is a guinea pig to test on." He says as he opens his eyes.

"If I wanted to play it safe, I wouldn't be looking for you." I respond as I stare back at the 'old' man.

Isshin remained quiet, before slowly getting up. And then turns to leave...

(... Uhh....)

He walks up to a door that was on the right side of the room, enters it, and closes it behind him...

-2 minutes later-

"... So...." I sigh slightly as I keep sitting.

Aikido turns towards me, and as he opens his mouth, Isshin enters the room again, holding what seemed to be a, bracelet?

He walks up to the table between the sofas, and tosses the bracelet on it.

"Wear this on your arm." He adds as he sits back on his sofa.

Without speaking I take the bracelet, a thick silver cylinder with a small rectangular screen embedded on the top...

The moment I wore the thing, it locked on my arm, the screen lighting up with a green color.

"You didn't even ask what it was. There's a fine line between bravery and plain stupidity." Isshin speaks up with a calm tone. I didn't respond.

"Now extend your arm, the screen facing upward." He adds as he focuses his sight on the bracelet.

Without speaking, I do as he asked....

"..." And, We stayed like that. For about twenty seconds...

"Is something supposed to happen?..." I ask.

"Unless you wanted to die today, then no." Isshin responds casually.

"... The what now?" I ask back...

"This bracelet reacts to life fibers. Something that my, our enemies use extensively. If you were with them, your life fiber use would be way above average." Isshin answers, before extending his arm and tapping the bracelet, which quickly opened and fell on the table with a loud 'thunk'.

"You though, I never saw such a dead response before. Even if you have no life fibers on, or in you, It should normally have at least, some reaction, as it would normally detect even traces of life fibers from your daily life." Isshin strokes his beard as he speaks.

"Then it works fine. As I never used anything with life fibers before." I respond flatly.

"Really now? Quite the feat I might say. Seeing as they are in most clothes nowadays." Isshin lifts an eyebrow as he speaks. I just shrugged.

(Not in my world they weren't)

"Very well kid. Follow me." Isshin gets up and motions with his head. I just nod and get up.

"So, uh, I'm just going to, go now..." Aikido whispers as he puts his hands in his pockets before turning to leave.

"Oh and Aikiro. I need more liquid for the tank, it didn't top out." Isshin grumbles as he keeps walking, not turning to look at mister pink nipples.

"Yes, yes..." Aikido responds nonchalantly as he leaves the room.

With that, me and Isshin enter the room he entered before, to end up in a hallway with two doors, one on the wall to my left, one straight ahead.

Isshin walks up to the door to the left, opens it, and motions me to follow him. That door led to a set of narrow, long stairs. The end of said staircase not really being visible, as the dim light caused the narrow corridor to turn pitch black a little further down.

"Alright, Kid. Before we do anything, I'll have to check your compatibility with life fibers." Isshin speaks up as he starts going down the stairs. Taking a nearby lantern to illuminate the stairs.

(Suprised nobody asked my name yet. Not that I'll use my real name anymore, I'll just think of a new one. Or use the same name I use in all the video games I played. Don't fix it if it ain't broke...)

We then went down the stairs in silence, until, we finally reached the end. A thick-looking metal door with a valve on the center. Isshin hangs the lantern on a small extrusion of the wall, grabs the large valve on the door, and with a swift jerk, the valve turns with a loud 'thud'. And, the door slowly starts to open.

The room inside, looked nothing like the rest of the building.

First of all it was full of machines, machines that kept giving off an almost oppressing red hue that engulfed the whole room. Some looked like control panels, others like tables with a glass top, others like metallic human-sized tubes. And in the center of all this in a big transparent tube, a schoolgirl uniform. No, let me correct that, 'the' schoolgirl uniform, Senketsu. Though I guess he was not really named yet.

And, in front of that tube, inside a horizontal machine that had a constant lazer running back and forth, the scissor blades, both of them.

(... Holy, shit...)

"Take a seat here." Isshin ignores everything in the room and points at a chair that honestly looked like an executioner's toy, armrest cuffs and all. The only extra that chair had, was a second chair next to it, that had a large screen. And the cuffs themselves each had a long, translucent, flexible tube on the top that went into a cylindrical machine nearby, which then, in turn, had several more metallic tubes that connected with other machines...

(Ohh boy, I get the feel I won't like this...)

Not voicing my opinion, I walk up to the chair, and sit on it.

"I'll warn you, this might hurt." He adds as he locks the cuffs on my hands, essentially immobilizing my upper body.

He then takes a seat next to me and taps on the screen...

And...

"The f!.." I jerk up as I felt a sharp pain in both my wrists...

"Did you just, stab me?..." I ask as I turn to look at Ryuko's father.

"A rather calm reaction." He responds nonchalantly.

"Now, let me ask you some things. Since you seem to know some basics." He adds as he keeps tapping away.

"Do you know how life fibers function?" He asks.

(Hmm, well. Yea, but is that 'knowledge-free' knowledge? Oh well, let's play it safe...)

"They are parasitic, from what I know. They feed off the person that wears them. Though the fact that they can be used to strengthen somebody, something tells me there is more to that." I answer.

"They are sentient. While they can not speak, and they might not even understand us, they have a will. Which lets them make decisions. I have seen them react to stimuli like an animal. Moving away from damaging substances, while congregating on locations that benefit them, like a rats nest." Isshin nods slightly as he stops tapping away at the screen that is attached to his chair.

"What I essentially need to see, is how quickly the life fibers will drain you, and how much control you can have of them in the meantime." With that last sentence, Isshin turns to look at the machine the tubes were the tubes from the chair connected to. And, slowly, an orangish shine started to slowly creep out from the flexible translucent tubes...

(... I'm not freaking out, I'm not freaking out, I'm not freaking out.)

The orange glow, with a steady pace, moved from the machine, towards the chair, towards me.

(I'm not freaking out, I'm not freaking...)

And the moment the orange shine reached the handcuffs, I felt something 'touch' my wrists....

(FUCK IT! I'M FREAKING OUT!)

I took a deep breath as I tightened my grip on the chair. And...

Nothing...

Other than the slight tickling, I felt nothing more...

(... Uhhh, I'm not dying?)

"Is, this supposed to, tickle...?" I ask as I arch an eyebrow.

"..." Isshin just kept staring at the screen with a serious expression...

"Weird..." Was all he said...

"... I'm just, going to wait here..." I whisper as I keep staring at the man.

"Are you, human?" He asks as he turns to look at me.

"Excuse me? No, I'm a vegan velociraptor from Mars." I respond with a sarcastic tone.

"It wouldn't surprise me..." Isshin retorts...

"Uhh, because?" I ask as I let a high sigh from my nose.

"Because the life fibers seem to be unable to feed off you after connecting to your nervous system. They just, wrap around you and do nothing." Isshin answers.

(They did what now?!... Uhh, ok, focus, what's the worse than can happen, become a vegetable. I shall name me, carrot.)

"And that is, good?" I ask again. He didn't answer.

He just got up, and quickly moved to the middle of the room, where Senketsu and the blades were at. From there, he took what seemed to be a small glowing red vial that had a long cap on one side, before trotting back to me.

He then opens the vial's cap to reveal a needle, which he injected into the tube. And as the content of the vial entered into the tube, the orange glow took a deeper, almost bloodlike crimson red. He then turned back towards the screen again.

"... Soooo....." I sigh as I keep looking at the now red-glowing tube.

"... Why, are they reacting like this. Not even Ryu..." Isshin stops mid-sentence and turns to look at me.

"The life fibers are just not feeding off you period." He says.

"They connect, fuse with your nervous system. But don't draw energy from you." He adds.

"Sooo, I'm flat-out incompatible?" I ask.

"Yes, and no." Isshin scratches his head as he turns to his screen.

"You could wear a suit full of life fibers and be unaffected. The question is, if you'll be able to command them...." He whispers as he starts to tap on the screen again.

"Won't that be sort-term though, won't the life fibers just, starve?." I ask.

"Yes, yes, but that is not hard to deal with, you can force-feed them the blood of another person. That's not important..." He gets up from his chair and takes an empty syringe from a nearby machine...

Then comes up to me, and unceremoniously sticks it on my hand...

"OI!" I shout as Isshin starts drawing blood.

"This is important kid. I have to run tests on this." He responds as he turns to his screen, a few taps, and the life fibers stopped ticking me as they retreated back towards the main machine they came from.

Isshin then opens the cuffs and turns to head towards the central machines without speaking.

"Soo, I..."

"You can go. No actually you'll stay in this house. It'll be a disaster if you died in a ditch." Isshin responds as he puts the vial with my blood into the machine he picked it up from some time ago...

(Aww, he actually cares.)

"I need to run more tests on you. It'd be a disaster if you die, this could be a breakthrough!" Isshin exclaims....

(... Oh fuck you old man. I'm going to eat all the ham in your fridge now.)

"Grab a bandage from there and get out. I need silence." Isshin essentially waved his arm without even turning to look at me...

I looked at the cuts on my wrist, slight blood dripping from them.

(Scratch that, I'm eating all of your ice cream too...)

With that, I turn to leave the room...

(... I didn't just seal my fate, did I...)

You need motivation

-A few days later-

The silence, is nice....

I was lying on a bed, inside a room Isshin told me I could use. Staring at the ceiling. As for Isshin himself? He has been locked up in his lab. Which is a good thing to be honest. Because...

-5 days ago-

"Run faster!" Isshin shouts right at my ear with a megaphone as I keep sprinting on a treadmill inside the lab, several cables attached to my head....

"I can't run faster!" I shout back.

"Run faster!" Isshin shouts again...

"I can't run faster!" I shout back again.

"RUUUUN!" He shouts as he punches the speed increase button on the treadmill...

"I CAAAAAAA!" Was all I managed to say as the speed spun me upside down and jettisoned me off to the wall behind me...

-3 days ago-

"You swim like a grandma!" Isshin shouted as he sat on the corner of a small pool filled with liquid.

"You have weights on my legs!" I shouted back...

"You swim like a grandma!" Isshin shouts again...

"I'm still fully clothed! I shout again.

"You swim like a, GRANDMA!" Isshin yells yet again as he tosses a sack filled with something on me. Causing me to get submerged...

" I BRGLIEEE! EEEAAAA! This isn't freegin water!" I yell back.

- 1 day ago-

"Move fridge there." Isshin commanded while scratching his beard with a thoughtful expression.

"Done." I sigh.

"I don't like it there, move it to the left!" Isshin yells with a nod.

"... D... done..." I groan.

"Still looks bad! Take it back to where it was." Isshin shakes his head in disappointment...

"... D... D..one.." I wheeze as I leave the fridge down yet again.

"Alright, now it's time for your training. Don't be late." Isshin nods as he casually turns to walk away....

"Whaaaaaaa...." Was all I managed to say...

- Some time ago-

"You look like a half-baked dumpling! Take these and start training by yourself as well! Science needs you to be at top condition!" Isshin exclaimed as he shoved two relatively heavy dumbbells on me....

-Now-

"I, hate, training..." I groan as I get off the bed.

"Can't I just, get plot shield and get overpowered or something?..." I chuckle as I get up.

"At least most of the stuff Isshin told me to read about were stuff I already know, like information about Goku uniforms, life fibers, how they affect a host. But the physical training, Ughh..." I shake my head as I finish speaking.

"Uhh, ok, let's stay focused. I've already got one wildcard to deal with. What with the life fibers going all weird when introduced to my system..." I whisper as I head to the table and pick the dumbbells.

"Still, does this mean I can wear a kamui?" The moment I asked that, I got a really, REALLY bad image in my head. You know, what with Kamui's essentially being uhh, hentai levels of revealing...

"... Nope, not happening..." I shiver as I walk back to the bed, sit on it, and turn to look at the window to my right. Did I also mention I was on the second floor? While the room itself was bare-bones, it had a bed, a desk, and a window right next to the bed. The view out the window was pretty good, I could see the house's side yard, and well, sea, along with that long ass bridge bending over the horizon.

"Welp, let's see how long we can last..." I let out a deep sigh as I started doing some bicep curls, because honestly, it was the 'easiest' thing to do...

-5 minutes later-...

"..." I was flat on the bed, unmoving...

"... I'm, so doomed..." I groan as I let out a deep breath.

I get to a sitting position and my eyes...

"And he said something about, running today?" I groan again as I get up.

"Uhh, I really want to stop. But, this will bite me back in the ass if I skip it, won't it." I whisper as I turn to look at the dumbbells.

(You know it would be even worse if I end up meeting Ryuko and she wipes the floor with my ass. Seeing that she was very aggressive at the start of the anime. And I'm working with her dad now. Sooo, since the way I am now I have absofuckinglutly no chance of beating that crazy-ass bitch Nui, it means that Isshin is bound to kick the bucket. And if Ryuko finds out I knew her dad...)

I shiver slightly as I sit my ass back down, and take the dumbbells again...

(Ok me, time to get shit done. At least having my mind occupied with this crap keeps me from thinking about the fact that I'm, well. Here.)

I steel myself, and start training again...

.... 2 minutes later... -

"Nope, I, give. Call, somebody else, to be a hero, I'm going to, expire, here..." I groan, flat on the floor...

Just as I finished groaning. The door opens. Isshin on the other side.

"What exactly are you doing...." He asks as he keeps staring at me.

"Giving up on life..." I respond from the floor as I lift my finger towards the ceiling.

"... You give up too fast kid!" Isshin exclaims as he folds his arms.

"But your refusal hinders my progress, I simply can't accept this." He adds.

"Hmm, you need motivation. Yes." He says to himself as he turns around.

"... Should I be scared?..." Was the only thing I managed to whisper before bumping my hand on the floor again...

(Is it too late to join the naked beach and get a safe deskjob?...)

I slap my cheeks as I get to a sitting position.

(No, you chose this path, no backing down now you retard.)

I take a deep breath and get up.

"But still, what's the worse he could do..." I ask myself...

-Next day, early in the morning... -

"And so, I want you to take him in your class as a student." Isshin motions with his head towards me as he sat on his couch...

"Are you sure? No start students with no Goku uniforms tend to have a, really bad time there" Aikuro responds with a loud yawn while sitting on the opposite couch.

"That's what I'm counting on. I also want to see how his body will react to Goku uniforms." Isshin retorts with a serious expression.

"I just told you, no stars can't wear goku uniforms." Aikuro continues.

"He does not need to 'wear' one." Isshin shrugs slightly.

"So you mean get my ass beat by one..." I mumble. Isshin didn't answer, but, i'm pretty sure that is what he meant...

"Uhh, I don't know Isshin, it seems unnecessary." Aikuro sighs as he glances at me.

"Are you absolutely sure that will give you the data you need?" I ask as I turn to look at Isshin.

"It will give me more data than what we have now." He responds.

"Fine, fuck it, let's do it." I groan as I throw both hands up.

"Good. Now get out of my house, I got research to do." Isshin gets up and shoos me and Aikuro with his hand. Before turning to leave the room.

"Kid, you're nuts." Aikuro sighs as he turns to look at me.

"You've seen nothing yet. Just have an ambulance ready." I chuckle as I turn to leave the house.

"Uhh, if you say so. Come on kid, I'll drive you there. Otherwise, you'll be late." Aikuro motions with his head.

And so, we exit the house, and right outside, inside the side yard of the house, Aikuro's car...

"This thing really looks like a firebird fused with a Ferrari two hundred fifty..." I whisper.

"A what?" Aikuro asks as he goes to the driver's side and opens the car's door.

"Uhh. Nothing." I respond as I open the passenger door and enter the car.

(... Wait a minute...)

"Wait, you said we'll barely make it in time. Yet the sun is not even out yet. What time does this school start at?" I ask.

"Seven." Aikuro responds flatly as he turns on the engine and switches to reverse.

I turn to look at my watch...

"It's still six!" I yell as Aikuro enters the highway...

"Really?! Oh shit! We better hurry up!" He yells back as he plainly put, steps on it.

"Are you for real?! One hour?! By car?!" I yell again as I turn to stare at him...

"How the hell I'm gonna do this distance on foot..." I groan as I turn to look at the road through my window...

"Ehh." Aikuro just shrugged.

"At least, the highway goes all the way to the top." I sigh as I look at the island that was slowly growing bigger.

"Oh, we're not driving that far up." Aikuro responds casually.

"Scuse me?" I ask as I turn to him.

"I'll leave you by the slums, take the tram from there. I can't just drive up the school with this babe. I'm supposed to be a poor teacher after all. Just wait for me in the same place you first met me, I'll take it from there." Aikuro chuckles.

"Uhh, fair nuff." I shrug.

-40 minutes later-

I was now standing by the tram station. Which was cluttered with students, all in their uniforms and school bags.

(Did I ever mention how much I do not like school? I already passed that nightmare once. Now I got to do it again? Ughh...)

Trams were coming and going at a steady pace, yet the mass of students did not seem to decrease...

As for me, I was sitting in the corner, waiting. Hell knows I was not going to get into a stuffed tram with thirty other poor sods.

I must have been checking the students that moved about for quite some time, all in the same gray uniform, until. I saw one that stuck out like a sore thumb, mostly because her outfit was not the same as the rest. Also, she had a croquette in her mouth.

(Hmm? Is that Mako?)

Yet as soon as I saw her, she disappeared inside the parked, packed tram...

(Oh well, whatever. Keep focused. You're not here too goof off with pretty girls. No matter how nice that sounds. Though more than half of em would probably outright beat me back to my old dimension. I mean, think of it for a sec, Ruiko? Satsuki? Nonon? Omiko? These just come on the top of my head, and each and every one of them would probably yeet somebody as much as look at them. And then we got the total fucking nutjobs, them being Nui and Ragyo. I'm not even gonna bother analyzing them. They'd just outright kill me. Then molest my corpse...)

I take a deep breath and focus back on the students...

(Thankfully for me, all of the above will just ignore me, as long as I don't stick out. So the question is. Whatever Isshin is doing. Will it make me stick out? On one side, it could give me the 'tools' to stand my ground. On the other hand, what's the point of standing your ground if your foe can just rip the ground along with you?)

With my arms folded, I close my eyes.

(I also need to figure out what I'll do when Nui comes for blood. I mean if you think about it. Even a maxed-out Ryuko didn't manage to kill her. So If she pops up as I am now? Yea I'm gonna be deader than dead. Plus if she does see me with Isshin, I'm going to be prime target number one. And last thing I need is that crazy Milf breathing down my neck twenty-four seven.)

I sigh as I open my eyes, glancing towards the tram once again. The students seemed to have decreased enough for me to enter a tram without turning into a packed sardine.

(So, let's get some basics straight.

One, I am not strong enough to do what Ryuko can or will do.

Two, I can probably not save Isshin.

Three, if the big bad boss grows an interest in me. I'm doomed.

Four, I need to think before I act, based on the anime the good guys win. So the more I interfere, the bigger the chance crazy ass mom wins and turns us all to gimp suits.)

I enter the tram along with another couple of students as I keep thinking.

(Now, for the more 'now' problems.

First, if Isshin's house turns into charcoal, I'll need a place to stay. My best bet, is to somehow manage to turn into a one star, as they have a pretty nice apartment to stay in.

As long as I don't have to cut my hair into a bowl cut and look like every other one-star s.o.b.)

I let out a very muffled chuckle as leaned on the tram's short wall, and turned to look outside.

(Other than that, life's good. I'm just stuck in a planet where clothes can kill you. I'm going to go to a school where you can get hanged naked by the entrance till your soul leaves your very body. And the power level of some individuals can scale up to space flight without protective gear and regeneration from 'any' type of damage...)

I sigh as I shake my head.

(How the fuck did I end up in this mess...)

-15 minutes later-

The rusty tram comes to a full stop, and the students quickly move outside, and straight towards the building's tall entrance. Next to said entrance, Aikuro, looking as plain as ever.

(Welp, here we go. And here they told me that you get a 'First day at school' only once in your life. I call bullshit...)

I take a deep breath and exit the tram, then head straight towards Aikuro.

"Teacher." I speak up as I close into him. Aikuro just nods and turns to enter the school's grounds. I just silently followed behind him.

"Question, will I be getting a no-star uniform as well? Or are they not mandatory?" I ask.

"You better get one, unless you want to stand out and attract attention on you." Aikuro responds without looking at me.

"And you don't want to stand out." He continues.

"Also, you don't seem to have any other clothes other than these. Do you?" He adds.

"What makes you think that?" I ask.

"Because you are still wearing them?" He responds flatly.

"... Yea fine whatever..." I sigh as I put my hands in my pockets...

And just I finish that sentence, we move past the towering entrance, and into the giant field.

(Damn, they always showed this place to be big. But it's fucking humongous.)

"Follow me, and don't attract attention." Aikuro motions his head as he keeps talking.

(Sure sure, it's not like both your nudist friends and Satsuki are working towards a common goal. Shame I can't just outright say it. Because both outcomes I can think of would be horrible. As Ragyo knows of the nudists, thus, if Satsuki is caught working with them. That's one early game over. And if they don't believe me, well, nothing will change, other than me getting hanged or something.)

With that, me and Aikuro headed to the center of the field, where the whole school seemed to be present. Or at least the number of students and the noise they generated seemed to prove so...

(Hmm, I see both one starts and zero stars here...)

Just as I say that, I something strongly shoved my right shoulder from behind, which honestly almost caused me to fall flat on the ground...

(The fuck?!...)

I quickly turn to my right, to see a thin, tall man with a Japanese pompadour, looking all swag. His uniform was with two small stars on the collar.

Without even as much looking at me, he went on, towards the front part of the mass.

"Fewwww, for a minute there I thought you'd pick a fight." I hear Aikuro sigh.

"He was wearing a two-star uniform, was he not?" I ask in a low tone.

"Biker club president, Botan Okaro." Aikuro responds.

(Hmm, so there are two stars the anime did not show. Yeeeyyyy....)

And before I could even turn to look ahead.

The bell rang. All the students quickly scurry to get in line.

(Here we go.)

Without much of a choice, I did the same.

(So what, now the big boss shows up and I need to lick the ground?)

Much to my surprise though, no wild Satsuki appeared, nor did the student council. And so, without losing time, the students started to head towards the main building.

"Follow me." Aikuro, who was right in front of me whispered. I just nodded.

After entering the main building, the sea of students started to spread out towards different staircases, me? I just followed mister pink nipples. Until finally, he turned away from the sea of students towards a hallway nobody went to.

He glance behind him to make sure I was with him, before turning to walk again.

"As you are a no star, we can take a normal uniform without much of a hustle." He says as he motions me to follow him.

We then kept moving for a few minutes, until we reached a normal-looking door that Aikuro stopped in front of. The label 'storage' over it.

He knocked on it a couple of times, and as the door opened, a rather, fat guy popped up from behind. A bored look on his face, the big black star shape on the center of his uniform signaling that he was a one-star student.

"Hello. I need a non-star uniform, bag and books for this kid." Aikuro points at me while looking at the fat guy behind the door.

Said guy glanced at me, made a rather annoyed grimace, and disappeared into the room. Only to appear several seconds later, and throw a bag towards my face...

I casually catch the bag and turn to look at it.

(Grumpy guy is grumpy. Welp, now I'm officially a student here i guess...)

"Tha..." Before Aikuro could finish, the fat guy loudly closed the door.

"..nks..." Aikuro lets out a small sigh before turning to me.

"Well then, time to head towards our class. There is a bathroom near it, you can change there." Aikuro starts to move again as he speaks.

(Surprised he didn't tell me to change here and now...)

With that though, we started moving down the hallways again.

(Well so far so g...)

" You two there! What are you doing outside of class! And where is your uniform?!" A very loud voice booms from behind me....

(I spoke too soon...)

"Oh crap..." Aikuro whispers as he slowly turns around.

And behind us, nonother than big boy Gamagory. Looking as big and imposing as ever. Who, with a couple of big steps, was right up my face.

"Where is your uniform student! Losing school property is a punishable Offence!" He shouted. Did I mention he was right up my face? Which...

"Right here, sir. I just enrolled. I was heading to the bathroom to change. " I respond as I keep a straight face, lifting the bag for him to see.

And right as Gamagory was about to open his mouth, loud, running footsteps. A student zipped past the hallway on the far end, towards the direction I was facing. Gamagory shifted to look behind me, his angry frown turning even, angrier.

" **No running in the hallways maggot!** " He shouted as he quickly sprint towards the connecting hallway.

(... Damn that guy is hyper...)

"... Well, I'm impressed. Most people don't even have the guts to speak to the student council, let alone explain themselves without pissing themselves." Aikuro turns to glance at me with both his eyebrows arched.

"The student council normally patrols the hallways?" I ask as I pass my bag over my shoulder.

"They don't. We just got really, really unlucky. Now let's go, before you attract even more attention." Aikuro turns to walk, this time at a quicker pace.

(... Well, my ears are still ringing...)

It didn't take too long to reach the classroom door. A big, oval metal door with a valve on the center...

(Huh, I forgot that the classroom doors look like friggin 'submarine doors. Then again, this building 'is' in truth a giant ass mecha)

"The bathroom is behind you to your left. Go change" Aikuro speaks up as he points behind me.

"Oh, one last thing." He adds as I turn around.

"Name, need one for the papers. You never told me yours." He continues.

"Sir dies-alot." I answer with a flat tone.

"... One that is not going to get you expelled and shoot off the island with a cannon." Aikuro answers, seemingly not amused.

(Oh well, video game naming moment time.)

"Uhh, Naier." I shrug.

"Naier what? You don't have a surname?" Aikuro folds his arms as he groans.

"Naier Rian." I shrug...

"You just thought of this on the spot? Uhh, whatever you look like a foreigner, so, guess it's fine. Go ahead, I'll wait..." Aikuro motions me to leave.

(I was going to say Naier Reian, but if somebody found it's just the same name upside down I'd probably get in needless trouble...)

And some without responding, I went to change...

You know, the most surprising thing I have experienced today, was not meeting a bunch of anime characters, it was not a weird-ass highway that for all rime and reason should not be able to stand, Hell it was not the fact that I came to terms that I'm in a world where I might get eaten by a friggin suit. Nope, the weirdest thing was, how damn nice the bathroom smelled. I'm not kidding, it was not that it didn't smell, which would be surprising on its own, it was that it smelled, friggin, nice...

After quickly changing inside the bathroom, I look myself in the mirror...

(Damn man, you look like a frigging charcoal eraser...)

I chuckle as I leave the bathroom. And walk up to a waiting Aikuro...

"Alright, come on." He turns around and opens the heavy ass door, leaving it open as he heads to the teachers desk. Me? I stayed outside, next to the door, though I could see the first couple of lines of students. Most of them looking bored out of their mind, while others where staring at me like I'm some sort of alien.

"Good morning class, before we begin today, I'd like you to welcome uhh, Nafier. Rian." Aikuro fixes his glasses as he turns to look at me.

(Kill my name more next time...)

I take a deep breath, and enter the class...

"Before anything else, my name is not uhh Nafier, it's Naier. " I speak up as I stop next to the teachers desk, staring straight towards Aikuro. A couple of chuckles sounded off from the class.

"Uh, yes,yes." Aikuro, acting ever casual, just turns to look to his book.

"You can sit at..." Just as he continues I turn to look at the class, where now I was the center of attention. All five rows of students staring at me.

(Too much spotlight, me don't like.)

Well, almost the center of attention, as a certain Mako, was fast asleep on her desk.

"You can sit at..."

"Last seat on the second row." I continue. Aikuro glances at the empty desk, then just nod.

(It's funny, but since I have essentially done all this before, I don't feel embarrassed or anxious. Or it's because there's a good chance

Isshin will demand that I join a damn club and get my ass beat so this feels inconsequential...)

With that though, I start walking between the rows.

"Uhh, Ok..." Aikuro then turns a few pages in his book.

"Now would you open your books to page thirty six." He adds as he fixed his fake glasses.

(Is it weird that I reflexively kept an eye for anybody that might try to trip me? Paranoid much?)

I breathe out through my nose as take a seat, then, open my bag and then look through the books.

(Uhh, page thirty six on what book...)

I glance around me, and see everybody with a book that had several numbers on the cover.

(Math? My favorite, six and nine is sixty-nine after all.)

I grab my own math book, open it to the corresponding page, and....

(... Yea, I'm not going to pay attention. I got more important things to think about.)

Feeling blue

"And so, if you finish the equation with two, you need to subtract...."
Aikuro was lazily writing on the chalkboard with his back turned towards the class.

I was staring at my book, silently tapping my pen on the paper.

(I'm. So. BORED. Fuck the end of the world, attending school classes will kill me before Ragyo. And who's the smartass who thought that having math TWICE a day was a good idea?! And to rub it in, one was at the start of the day, the other at the end...)

I let out a yawn as I covered my face with my hand.

(Waking up at the crack of dawn ain't any better either. I worked hard to have a night shift before coming here. Now I'm back to needing to wake up at four am. Bullshit. Though, well, I 'did' get fired so I guess my point is null.)

And, as I was starting to think of taking the easy way out, the bell rang. The students seemingly springing to life as they packed their things up and left the classroom with energy that was nowhere to be seen during the class itself.

"Alright class, remember too.." Aikuro turns to speak, only to see that less than half of the class has remained...

"... do your homework." Aikuro finishes his sentence with a small sigh.

(Well, time to bail.)

I pack my things and get up. And as I start to head towards the exit.

"Oh and, new student." Akuro speaks up

(Still don't remember the name I came up with you derp?)

"Your, father called. He needs you back at the house as soon as possible." He continues as he casually turns to look at his bag.

(Father? So I'm Ryuko's and Satsuki's stepbrother now?...)

I nod, and turn to leave.

(Let's bail then.)

"AAA! class is over?!" I hear a girly shout from inside my class.

"Yey! I can finally go eat!" The same voice shouts.

I glance behind me to see Mako hurriedly packing her things, before pretty much jettisoning herself off her seat and making a beeline towards the exit. The same exit, I was next to.

(Oh you gotta be pulling my leg...)

I quickly try to sidestep to avoid the incoming crash.

"Aaaa! Watch out! " Mako shouts as she skims right past me, and, probably from her loss of focus, runs right into the wall...

"Ouf! Uuuuu, my head..." Mako takes a few steps back as she starts massaging her head.

"You have it out for me or something? Second time you try to knock me out in a single day..." I fold my arms as I stare at Mako.

"Ehh? Uhhhh..." She turns to look at me, and then narrows her eyes, before a lightbulb seemingly flashes in her head.

"Ahhh! You're the guy that wanted to meet the teacher!" She exclaims.

"Umm, what are you doing here?" She asks as she tilts her head.

"... I'm a student in this class, since today morning?" I responded.

"Ohhh! Welcome! I'm Mako Mankanshoku! " Mako excitedly smiles at me as she grabs my hand, and violently shakes it.

"Uhhh, yea..." I nod slightly as Mako keeps trying to rip off my arm.

"Try not to waste too much time with your new friends. Remember your father n..."

"Yes, yes I know." I cut off Aikuro as I glance at him.

(Hmm, why the rush? Did he find something?)

Mako glances at the teacher, then at me.

"Oh you need to go? Sorry for holding you back! See you later!"
Mako makes a quick small bow before turning to run out of the class.

"Food~ Food~ Food~ Yummy Foooooooood~ Mystery croquettes with surprise Saaaauce~" And she starts singing, her voice slowly fading out as she kept walking...

"... She's certainly, hyper..." I whisper as I also exit the class.

And so, after following the students towards the exit of the building itself. Because I'd get lost otherwise. I pick the emptiest tram, and start going down towards the slums....

-15 minutes later-

I was at the tram's stop.

(Ok, If I remember correctly, the highway is on the sixth turn to the right.)

I nod, and start walking.

(Wonder what Ryuko's dad found to need me back this much...)

With my mind occupied, I kept moving. Which, in retrospect, would explain why I didn't see it...

Until, I felt something violently pulling one of my legs...

(Wha...)

Before I could react, a chain had warped around my shin and pulled my leg back. To keep my balance I lean my upper body forward, only to end up with something crashing into my back, which in turn, sent me flat to the ground...

(... Fugh?!)

"Ha! Second time we caught you Hobo! By the way, nice outfit! Now empty your pockets~" A childish voice I know a bit 'too well' chuckles from behind me.

"Hate to break it to you Mataro, I'm still broke as ever." I respond.

"Hey boss! This guy knows you?" Another childish voice asks.

"What?! Of course not! I don't mingle with damn Hobos!" Mataro, who was now sitting on my back, shouts...

"Well, better hurry it up. Mako was behind me when I left the tram..." I add...

"W, what?! Oh shit! Bail bail!" Mataro shouts as he jumps off my back.

"Uhh, bo.."

"Shut up and run you idiot. I don't want to have to deal with my crazy ass sister!" Mataro cuts the other kid off as his voice starts to sound more distant.

"Oh this is stupid..." Another kid groans as it also starts to run, the other two that had joined the 'raid' following shortly after...

And now, I was alone, on the ground...

(... Done in by kids, and using a girl's name to make them flee. This is fine....)

I let out a huge sigh as I get up, dust myself off, and start walking again...

Thankfully, the road to highway was clear of any more 'events'. So all that was left, was a long-ass walk towards my new home...

(... At least I can shut my brain as I walk...)

And with that thought, I started walking, the highway slowly picking height, until the sea was a sharp drop to my left, with the wind getting relatively stronger...

-1 hour later... -

(At least there are no turns. Because I really feel lost right now...)

-1 and a half hour later... -

(The house is nowhere to be seen, my legs are killing me, my back hurts, my head hurts. This is, fine...)

-2 and a half hours later-

In the distance, finally, I could see the house, my house. As for me...

"I'm, really, not, meant, for, this...." I keep taking deep breaths as I keep walking.

"Wish, I had some, music...." I groan as I stop to lean by the railing.

After a few deep breaths, I turn to look behind me, then towards the sea under me...

(Falling here should be enough to kill me?)

I shake my head and back away from the railing...

(Ugh, pull your shit together. You just got beat up by a bunch of kids, everything, is fine...)

With a huge sigh, I start walking again.

Reaching the house took me another thirty minutes or so, so in total, three hours, just to get through the highway...

After reaching the front door, I knocked on it, as Isshin didn't give me any keys. And not as soon as I knocked, the door flew open.

"Come! Quick!" Isshin commanded as he turned to head towards the living room.

"O,k..." I whisper as I close the door, then follow Isshin to the living room, then to the hallway to the lab, then the lab itself.

"Found something?" I ask.

"See for yourself." Isshin responds as we enter the lab.

"Hmm? Look at whaaa... is that?" I ask as I enter the lab, next to the scissor blades, a new computer, along with a new, circular, transparent containment chamber. In the center of it, a ball of life fibers.

"Why are those life fibers, blue?" I ask as I close into the containment chamber.

"Don't get too close." Isshin puts his arm in front of me before I could take more than two steps towards the new chamber.

"And I thought you'd tell me" He continues.

"Uhh, what?" I ask...

"These are the same life fibers that I tested on you yesterday." Isshin folds his arms as he starts speaking.

"Part of the mass started acting erratically, detaching themselves from the mass of life fibers in the main chamber, attacking the rest of the mass. I had to separate it." He continues.

"After some time in the new chamber, it turned blue. And, well, much more aggressive.." Isshin takes a few steps towards the chamber as he speaks, the ball of fibers seemingly waking up, and quickly 'jumping' off the center and to the glass wall of the container, aiming straight towards Isshin.

"Life fibers don't normally act like this." He adds as he keeps walking to sit next to the chamber, the fibers inside following Isshin by rolling along the glass wall.

"And, then there is this..." He taps a few buttons on the led screen and turns to look at the chamber.

A small hole appears in the center, and a small petri dish with a few drops of blood pops up from inside the hole.

The blue life fiber quickly jumps back to the center and onto the petri dish. They then instantly recoil back with hissing jump, and land next to the petri dish. And, using a tendril that it extended out of its main 'body', it slapped the petri dish away.

-THUK-

And the petri dish loudly crashes into the chamber wall. The lifer fibers then contract themselves and turn into a cobra-like shape, lifting part of their body the air and hiss towards the petri dish.

"Did that thing just get, mad?" I ask.

"Yes, it did." Isshin replies as he presses another button, and a new petri dish appearing.

This time the life fibers didn't instantly react, instead, they used a tendril to 'poke' the blood in the petri dish, and...

They then turned back into a blob, jumped, and landed on it. This time staying on it...

"Let me ask you now, whose blood you think was first, and whose second." Isshin asks as he turns to me.

"Uhh, yours first, mine second?" I reply

"Half correct. Yours is the second. The first one, is my daughter's" He responds as he folds his arms.

(Ryuko's?)

"You see, my daughter is, 'special' and the fact that this batch of life fibers refuses her blood, makes them highly irregular." He continues.

"So what you telling me is, we got a highly aggressive life fiber blob, that's out for my blood, literally..." I sigh.

"Yes." Isshin answers flatly.

"Burn it with fire?" I ask again as I turn to look at the yarn blob.

"Don't be stupid kid! This could be a breakthrough, these life fibers act hostile towards other life fibers!" Isshin shouts.

"And towards me." I respond I point towards the containment chamber, the life fibers, just as before, quickly jump off towards my hand. And slam into the containment wall...

"Don't agitate it." Isshin glances at me before turning to his computer.

You know, I don't know 'what' I was thinking, but....

"Sit back down your blob." I command as I keep looking at the blue life fibers. And, the life fivers jump off the wall, and land on the

chamber's floor.

...

A few seconds passed in silence, the blob now unmoving.

"Uhh, Isshin? Look at the chamber for a bit..." I ask...

"What, I'm busy here, I don't have time to waste." He groans as he turns to look at it nonetheless.

"Roll around..." I twirl my finger as I speak.

"Uhh, look I don't have..." And Isshin stops talking mid-sentence as he keeps looking at the chamber, the fibers now rolling around the floor...

"Jump" I said, and the fibers jumped.

"Roll" I said, and the fibers rolled.

"Play dead" I said, and the fibers sprawled out on the floor, before contracting back to their usual round form...

"Roll" Isshin speaks up right after. And the life fibers...

Shoot a single tendring towards him, which slammed on the glass wall before retracting back into the main body.

"Why you cheeky little..." Isshin frowns.

(Huh, what next? Ask it to do the singing frog meme?)

And just as I thought that, the fibers started vibrating, before contracting, and taking the form of a frog, standing on two legs, it then created a top hat on one hand, a cane on the other, and, it started dancing...

"What, the? It's doing whatever it wants now..." Isshin whispered as he kept staring wide-eyed...

"Uhh, I just thought of what it's doing a few seconds ago...." I respond as I keep staring at the blue yarn frog...

"... I, need to research this! Now! " Isshin jumps off his seat and runs, yes runs, towards a nearby door in his lab. And yes, it looked as commercial as you might think...

So now it was me, alone in the lab. Well, mostly alone. I had a dancing frog made out of blue life fibers and the unnamed Senketsu with me...

And by the way, Senketsu's eye was wide open, staring at the dancing blue life fibers, but was not having any other reaction...

(Uhh, you can stop dancing now.)

Just as I thought that, the fibers stop dancing. Just then, Isshin enters the room again, carrying several more vials in his hand.

"You're still here? Go! I don't need distractions!" Isshin shoo's me with his hand as he sits on the main chair next to the scissor blades. Senketu's eye turning to look at him now.

I just nod and turn around to leave and.

-THUD! BAM! THUD! THUK!-

Several very loud bashing sounds echoed from behind me, turning to glance around, I found the blue life fibers spazzing out, launching themselves from wall to wall at insanely fast speed.

"Uhh, I don't think they want me to leave." I point at the fibers as I speak up.

"I, can see that..." Isshin responds as he keeps staring at them.

I turn around and walk up to the life fibers, that stopped going nuts the moment I got near.

"Intresting..." Isshin mumbled as he turned towards the computer screen in front of him, throwing the occasional glance at the fibers as he kept working.

"So what, Now I stay here?" I ask.

"Do whatever you wish." Isshin responds as he shoo's me with his hand, not even bothering to look at me.

(Oi, I need to leave, will you stop spazzing out?)

Just as I finish that though, the life fibers make a quick jump in place. Then jump again towards me, Spreading out with a loud -splat- on the chamber's transparent wall...

(No I can't take you with me. Probably because you'll drain me dry.)

The life fibers respond by sliding off the wall and onto the ground, and it stayed there, spread out on the chamber's floor. If something would make you think that the thing could feel defeated, this would be it...

(Don't be like that, I'll be back. And behave, this weird old man next to you is trying to help, I think.)

In response, the Life fiber contracted back, and jumped again, this time towards Isshin, another loud -splat- as it met the chamber walls...

"Did you just order the thing to attack me?" Isshin glances at me before turning towards the life fibers.

"Uhh, no, I told them that you're trying to help..." I responded...

"Interesting. Dominant hand?" That was all Isshin said as he turned back to his work.

"What?" I ask back.

"Your dominant hand." Isshin asks again.

"Left?" I respond. Isshin just nods without turning

And with that weirdness over, I turn to leave, this time for real. As, I was starting to feel rather, sore...

It's a normal procedure

-Several days later... -

I was looking at my wristwatch with an annoyed, sleepy expression.

"Four am...." I groan as I close the door to Isshin's house.

(It takes me almost three hours to get to school from here. Three, hours...)

I sigh as I close the door.

(At least I'm, uhh I would not call it 'friends'. More like acquaintances with Mako, then again, that girl could consider me to be her bestie with the way she is. I also managed to thankfully evade joining a club for now, as Isshin is locked in his lab to bother me about it. And since 'recruiting' season is over, most club leaders are too busy torturing their new recruits or fighting each other.)

"God I'm still hating every minute of this..." I groan as I start walking.

Yet, the moment I took a couple of steps away from the door, it swung open...

"You're not going to school today! We have an important test to run!" Isshin yells as he essentially grabs me by the collar and drags me back in...

"Doesn't this crazy-ass school kill you or something for skipping class?!" I shout as Isshin drags me back into the house.

"I've phoned Aikuro, he'll inform that you're sick or something." Isshin responds as he lets go of me, then turns to search his coat.

"Or something?" I ask back as I fold my arms.

"Wear this on your dominant hand." Isshin ignores my question as he throws me what seemed to be a gauntlet.

"Uhh, this is?" I ask as I look at the gauntlet from both sides.

It looked quite simple, for a gauntlet. Smooth gray plates that interlocked with each other. The only thing that made it stand out, was that it had a lot of hair-like strands carved on it...

"It's a gauntlet, made the same way I made the giant scissors you saw in my lab, hardened life fibers." Isshin responds.

"Well it's cool and all, but..." I wear the gauntlet as I speak.

"It's too big." I lift my hand, the gauntlet almost twice the size of my hand, wiggling like a bell when I shake my hand, and essentially falling off the moment I lower my hand...

"It's not finished yet. So come on. Time's wasting." Isshin exclaims as he starts to walk towards his lab.

"Still, how did you manage to turn the blue fibers into this? They didn't seem very cooperative last time I checked." I ask.

"I didn't. This is made from normal life fibers." Isshin responds as we start going down the stairs.

"I see..." Was all I said as I looked at the gauntlet again.

"We're going to add the blue ones now." He adds flatly as we start going down the stairs towards his lab.

"... Excuse me? You know that thing sort of wants my blood right?" I 'ask'.

"You can control them. Tell them to behave." Isshin casually answers as we enter the lab.

"... I thought you were a scientist." I whisper.

And speaking of the devil, the blue fibers, still in the capsule, jumped towards the direction of me and Isshin with a loud 'Splat' the moment we entered the lab.

"Huh? Can it see now? It reacted the moment we entered..." I ask as I tilt my head.

"No, it just seems to be able to spot you from further away now, probably because it locked on your biological signature yesterday..." Isshin shrugs.

"Well, ain't that just, peachy..." I groan.

"I thought you agreed to be my test subject. Even if it kills you." Isshin glanced at me before walking towards the main computer next to the scissor blades and the chamber, which now had two monitors instead of one on it.

"Touche..." I sigh.

"No backing out now kid. This is important. Now take the seat next to the chamber. Besides, I made the gauntlet to make sure nothing happens." Isshin turns to me with a serious expression.

"Oh and by the way, I suppose my name is Naier since a week ago.." I chuckle as I do as he said, the blue fiber being stuck like blue on the chamber wall that was in front of me...

" So, let me explain to you what we are going to do." Isshin turns to me as he takes a deep breath.

"This gauntlet can act as housing for the blue fibers, it will allow me to test how they actually react with you. We know they want to feed off you, but so do all life fibers on other living beings. The question is, what will they give in return and how much will they drain." Isshin glances at the blue fibers before turning towards his computer.

"Under the chamber should open a hole in a few, put the gauntlet, with your hand, in there. And put these on your head" As Isshin speaks, a circular hole opens under the transparent chamber. He then hands me a couple of suction cups that connected to his computer via wires...

(Well buddy. Let's see if you intend to kill me now. Do not kill me now.)

With that thought, I put my hand, along with the gauntlet inside the hole.

"... Just so you know...." Isshin glances at me before turning back to his computer.

"This research can. Will, help immensely..." As he finishes speaking, he presses a final button. And the flood of the chamber opens...

The fibers now, being a straight shot from the gauntlet. A shot that they quickly took...

The moment the fibers landed on the gauntlet they quickly engulfed it, taking its form, and then, they started to contract, the gauntlet that was twice my size, was slowly starting to fit. Or more like, the fibers were starting to compress the gauntlet.

Weirdly enough, I didn't feel any sort of pressure in my hand. Actually...

"Well, something 'is' happening. I can't feel my arm." I speak up.

"Relax, everything is going as planned." Isshin answers with a calm voice as he keeps typing away. Throwing an occasional glance towards the blue fibers.

A few minutes passed in silence. Until Isshin spoke up again.

"The gauntlet will work like a funnel. It will keep the fiber from leaking to your hand, unless we let them too." Isshin glances at his second

screen as he keeps speaking.

"That way, if they decide to not play nice we will..." As he speaks, he glances at his second screen again, this time he stops, narrows his eyes, and throws it a quick slap.

"We will be able to detain them..." He whispers as he starts typing again.

The thing is, just as Isshin slapped the monitor, my arm, started to tingle. I narrow my eyes as I lift my sleeve, and...

"Yea, uhhh. Isshin I think we have a problem..." I say as keep staring at the point that the gauntlet ended and my arm started. Several blue veins under my skin, extending from the gauntlet...

"What are you..." Isshin turns to look at me with a slight sigh, his annoyed look froze the moment he did see me though...

His eyes went wide as he quickly turned to his computer. And after haphazardly pressing a couple of buttons he turned to the containment chamber and pulled something from the side I could not see. An electrical sound of 'something' shutting down.

"Uhh, I didn't think they could break out this f..."

He then turned to look at the chamber.

"Oh God..." Was all Isshin mumbled as he took a step back. The blue fibers not reacting to whatever he just did, in other words, they just kept, leaking in my hand, for the lack of a better term...

(Welp, guess I'm screwed. Weird though, I expected to be more freaked out by now, yet I just feel, indifferent...)

Isshin turns towards the machine with the scissor blades, and with a quick tap on it, the top opens, and he pulls them both out.

"... Oi hol..."

Yet before I could finish my sentence...

-CLANK!-

Isshin bring both blades down on my arm, yet, they both bounced back...

"How?!" He shouted as he took a step back.

"Up a second..." I whisper as I keep looking at him...

Isshin just stared like an owl at the monitor now.

"Are you, still alive?" He asks as he turns to look at me.

" Uhh, yes?" I respond as I frown slightly.

Isshin narrows his eyes, Leaves one blade against a machine's wall, and turns to type something on the computer that was connected to the chamber...

"... And are you sure you are not dead..." He asks right after.

(What sort of friggin question is that?)

"Uhh, no?" I reply as I tilt my head.

"Because by all means, you should be." He retorts as he moves back, turning to show me his second screen.

On it, was me. Or well, an ex-ray of me. And, well...

"... Tell me all these blue veins in me are..."

"Blue fibers." Isshin cuts me off.

"Ok, I got to ask. Why am I not freaking out? I'm pretty sure I 'should' be freaking out. I am covered head to friggin toe here...." I respond

as I keep staring at the screen. Blue veins extending all over my body...

"Uhh..." I Isshin turns to type something on his computer.

"I, am not sure, but the life fibers are entangled along your brain right now. There, is a good chance they are suppressing certain chemicals in your brain so you don't fight back..." Isshin scratches his forehead as he keeps speaking.

(Oi! Don't fix it if it ain't broke! Quit tweaking my brain!)

And just as I thought that. A sharp, immense pain ran from my left arm, quickly extending to the rest of my body.

"Argh! What the, FUCK!" I shout as I fold over on the chair, clutching my head as my vision blurs out.

"Kid?! Speak to me! What's going on?!" Isshin shouts as he gets up from his chair to take a step towards me.

(Scratch that! Do whatever you were doing before! FUCK MY HEAD'S GONNA SPLIT!)

And as quickly as it came, the pain vanished....

"Kid!" Isshin grabs me by the shoulders and shakes me.

"AAAaa, I'm fine, I'm fine! Quit shaking me please..." I groan as I lift my free hand to wave at Isshin.

"What, just happened." He asks as he backs off.

"Uhh, plainly put, I think the fibers sort of still listen to me, to some extent. I told them to stop tweaking my brain, and my whole body spazzed out..." I sigh as I take a deep breath...

"So. based on what the books you gave me said, life fibers killed their hosts too fast when they were inside their bodies. So, uhh, why

am I not dead yet?" I ask right after as I shake my head. The lift it to look at Isshin

"I, don't know." Isshin replies, for the first time since I met him. Looking lost as he stared at the screen.

"Can you command them again? Tell them to retreat?" He asks as he turns to me.

"Uhh..." I turned to look at my left arm, the fibers had essentially swallowed up to half of my upper arm by now, visibly at least...

(Return to the gauntlet.)

... Nothing...

(Stop spreading out?)

... Nothing...

(Do a barrel roll?)

And with a violent yank, my hand pulls back, ripping the gauntlet out of the chamber with ease.

"Wha!..."

I then jump.

"The!"

Fall flat to the ground.

"Ugh!"

And started barrel rolling.

"Fuuuuck?!"

(STOP!)

And I instantly stop...

"... This, is fine..." I groan as I keep looking at the ceiling, and, turning my sight to my right. I found Isshin standing 'on' the machine that had the scissor blades in, one leg raised, holding both blades over his head, his eyes wide open. Honestly, he looked like one of them karate masters you see in movies...

"W, what happened?!" He shouts.

"I asked it to do a barrel roll..." I chuckle.

"The hell is wrong with you?!" Isshin exclaims as he lowers both blades with a huge sigh.

"Oh nothing. Just, you know, I have a parasite..." I groan as I get to a sitting position...

"... Am I, supposed to feel this tired though..." I yawn as I get up...

"Oh and by the way." I turn to look at Isshin with an almost drunk smile as I lift my left hand. Which was now nothing more than a blue, glowing form of a sharp nailed, armor-platted hand.

"Next time you do crazy stuff like that, I reckon you build a room to do them in, in case they go horribly wrong... I'm going to pass out now..." I whisper as I start to fall backward...

And, the world turned black.

Bob

(... You know, I feel oddly serene right now. For starters, I don't feel sore anymore. And considering all that training I have been through the last few days, I figured I would not be able to even get up...

Yet, why do I feel like I'm missing something?...

Ehh, whatever, if I can't remember, then it's probably nothing...)

And as the silence was starting to overtake once again...

"How is he?" A distant echo...

"Stable. He's stable." Another blurry, distant voice responds.

"So, it won't get any better?" The other voice asks again.

"There is nothing left there for it to get better. We should consider ourselves lucky that that was the only thing that got, eaten..." The second voice answers...

(... Noise. Why can't you be noisy somewhere else...)

"I know we're trying to fight an enormous foe. But, is it really worth, this?" The first voice asks again.

"If you are even asking this. Then you still don't understand the danger this planet is in yet." The second voice answers with a slight sigh.

"I do, it's just..."

"He's waking up." The second voice interrupts.

...

...

(Ugh. I suddenly feel like my whole body got run over....)

I groan as I slowly open my eyes. Or, at least I think that I opened my eyes...

(... Black...)

That is all I saw, eyes closed, eyes open, everything remained black...

(Well, black 'is' my favorite color, but this is kinda ridiculous...)

And just as I finished that thought...

The sound of a metallic lock opening up, the rushing of decompressing air, and a thin line of light, that slowly grew bigger, and bigger. Until all I could see was white.

"Are you sure this is a good idea Isshin? What if he attacks us." A voice asks as I hide my eyes with my left hand, which felt, oddly cold...

"Grow a pair Aikuro. We have countermeasures." The other voice, Isshin snarks.

"Can somebody turn down the lights..." I groan as rub my eyes...

"See, everything's fine." Isshin replies.

"You don't know that yet..." Aikuro replies.

"Damn man, show some faith. And why is my hand so damn c..." I groan as I lift my hand and open my eyes, and get greeted by a dark blue hand. The darker part on my palm seemingly being made of a wavy texture, while the lighter parts on the top part of my hand being completely smooth...

"My hand's blue..." I whisper as I keep staring at it.

Looking down to my arm, I find that the blue hue continued up to my elbow, where it came to an abrupt end, with only a couple of blue veins digging into my arm.

"Why is my arm blue? I ask as I 'show' it as Isshin.

"See, everything is fine." Isshin responds as he glances at Aikuro, though he 'was' holding the scissor blades. Aikuro just throws his arms up in defeat and turns to leave.

"So, you don't remember what happened huh?" Isshin asks as he turns to me.

"If you mean the blue fibers hijacking me? No I remember that, I mean it happened what, five hours ago?" I respond.

"Five days ago." Isshin corrects me.

"... Whut?" I ask back.

"You have been asleep for five days, give or take." Isshin continues.

"O, k. Won't that be a big problem for my, you know. Extensively strict school?" I ask.

"Oh don't worry about that, Aikuro had you covered." Isshin dismisses my question as he walks up to me.

"So, uhh. I gotta ask. What is this and why am I not dead?" I ask as I lean my back on my metallic tube bed.

"... Where to start..." Isshin takes a deep breath as he glances away.

"From the start?" I reply as I tilt my head. Isshin nods slightly.

"After you passed out, the blue fibers kept expanding on your body. By the second day, they had covered almost ninety percent of it. While In the meantime, your condition kept deteriorating." Isshin folds his arms.

"By the third day, you could be considered, well. Dead. Other than your brain, all your other organs had stopped functioning..." He continues.

"So, I'm a Zombie now?" I ask.

"No. You are fully alive. So if you let me finish." Isshin answers. I just shrugged with a nod.

"It was then when the life fibers just, uhh. Retreated for the lack of a better term..." Isshin scratches his cheek as he sighs.

"They just started rolling back, restarting your vitals as they retracted to your arm. If I had to make a guess. I'd say that they didn't want to kill you." Isshin shrugs as he shakes his head.

"... You guess?" I ask as I glance at my hand.

"This is a first for me, life fibers never acted the way these here do. And, I can't really study them either, with how unpredictable they are..." Isshin responds.

"Great, so now my arm is filled with a type of life fiber that even the life fiber expert can't recognize..." I lift my hand and wiggle my fingers as I speak.

"Actually, there are thin strands all over your body, even right now. But they seem to be inactive, or at the very least seem to be draining enough to just, exist. And, uhhh..." He sighs as he looks at my blue arm.

"You won't find an 'arm' there." He points at my hand.

"Excuse me?" I respond as I turn to look at my hand, flexing my fingers into a punch before spreading them as open as I could.

"No matter how much I scanned, all I found was life fibers. No bone, no muscle. As for why they 'act' as an arm. I think it's because they are connected to your nervous system. And if I had to guess, you are probably able to control them subconsciously, thus making them look like an arm to where your arm used to be." Isshin folds his arms as he keeps looking at my hand.

"Uhh, great..." I groan sarcastically as I keep looking around my hand.

"So one day it might just up and decide to run off and leave me without an arm." I add.

"That, I do not know. But remember these fibers seem to only feed off you. And, they seem to know it. Because if these were normal life fibers. There'd be nothing left of you by now." Isshin shakes his head.

"Sooo, can I touch stuff? Or I'll start disintegrating everything with my touch?" I ask as I press my finger on the metal lip of the tube.

"Touching should be safe, as long as you are not grabbing anything organic.." Isshin turn to head to the central part of his lab, pick something, then come back to me

"Wear this." He responds as he hands me, a new gauntlet its looks exactly like the old one, minus the hair strand carvings.

"Uhh. You know the first one failed miserably right?" I ask as I take the gauntlet with my normal hand.

"This one is meant to hide and keep the life fibers where they are. Different functions." Isshin replies.

"Riiight..." I sigh as I wear the gauntlet on my 'new' hand...

"Hmm, fits rather well." I whisper as I make various motions with my fingers.

"Now, if you excuse me. I have a lot of work to do." Isshin just turns to head towards the Kamui in the center of the lab, whose eye was now closed...

(... Uhh, so. Guy nearly kills me, rips my arm off and sticks a life-sucking parasite on it. And just ups and tells me he has 'work' to do. I know that I 'signed up' for this but jeez.

'Oh sorry for fucking up your arm'

'Oh don't worry its cool.'

'Oh cool. Now get out and farm some slimes or some shit')

I grumbled under my breath as push myself out the tube. And with a few unsteady steps, as I keep holding on to the tube bed, I try to shake off the numbness in my legs. All the while glancing at my new arm...

(God this feels weird. I can feel normally from it, but I also can't really feel it itself. Weird, I don't know how to explain it...)

"Also get ready to head to school." Isshin adds with his back turned to me.

"Uhh, can't I get a day off for losing an arm?" I ask as I lift my left hand.

"Go ask the student council." Isshin replies.

"... I'll go get my bag..." I sigh as I turn to leave.

"Oh, and try to get into a fight with a one star or higher if possible." Isshin casually adds.

(... Yea, I think I won't dad....)

I just shook my head as I left the lab and headed towards my room. In between though, I passed the living room. Where Aikuro waited while sitting on a couch.

"You look rather, blue." I say as I stop next to him. He turns to glance at me, then at my hand.

"Was that a pun?" He asks.

"Yee, I'll hand it to you, you got me there." I responded.

"Please stop." Aikuro sighs.

"I would, but my hand is full...." I add...

"..." Aikuro just, gave up and shook his head.

"Well, I better go get my bag. Long walk to the school." I say as I turn to leave.

"So you don't want me to drive you there huh?" Aikuro 'asks'.

"I get the feeling that it's you that don't want me in your car." I retort.

"Don't take it personally, but what wriggles under that gauntlet is the reason the nudist beach exists." He responds.

(I'll take it he didn't know Ryuko was half-life fibers? Or is it because I'm not a cute schoolgirl?)

"Well, I'll go get my bag, if you don't want to drive me there, just leave before I'm back. No hard feelings." I say as I shrug and turn to leave.

"Way to turn me into the villain..." Aikuro whispers from under his breath.

And so, I headed to my room, dressed in my student clothes and took my bag.

And yea, I hid most of the gauntlet under the jacket's sleeve, my hand being the only thing visible...

"Welp, let's go..." I sigh as I turn to leave my room.

Upon reaching the living room, I find it empty.

(He bailed huh. Oh well...)

I shake my head slightly as I exit the house.

"Took your sweet time. Come on hurry up." Aikuro nodded at me as he leaned on his car.

"So you didn't leave. I'll admit, I'm surprised" I say as I tilt my head.

"Uhh well, I just need to keep a close eye on you." Aikuro shrugs as he turns to slide on the car's hood in order to get to the driver's seat.

"Of course." I chuckle as I move to enter the passenger's seat.

After entering the car, Aikuro starts driving.

And, after a few minutes...

"I kept you in the daily attendance. So for the school, you have never gone missing for five days. So try to not blow your cover." Aikuro speaks up.

"Ehh, since everybody seems to fall asleep in your class, nobody would probably have realized that I was gone..." I chuckle.

"... I'll ignore this side jab. And not because it might be partly true." Aikuro glances at me as he keeps driving...

"You just hand, hand-le the truth" I answer with a deadpan face. Aikuro just lets out a groan as he kept driving.

-1 hour later-

After Aikuro dropped me off in the slums, I went to the tram. And since most of the students had already left towards the school, I just entered the first one that arrived...

And while in the tram...

(... My arm is starting to feel weird. A slight numbness. Are the blue fibers reacting to the fibers in the school?)

I flexed my fingers as I kept looking at the gauntlet. Other than the fact that it was well, a metallic gauntlet that really stuck out like a sore thumb, the blue fibers were not visible at all.

(Well, I really should not be scared. I mean, let's not forget that miss eyebrows up there is actually on our side. If I get found out, I'll just do what I did with Aikuro and lay her own plan in front of her. Hopefully, she won't just rip my arm off and toss me into a bin.)

I stop looking at my hand and turn to look towards the school building.

(But I'd rather not get caught. I need to first find out 'what' these lifers can do. The strongest characters in the anime were the ones with life fibers in their body after all....)

I sigh as I fold my arms.

(I could be considered the same now. Still..)

I stop leaning against the metal pole and do a couple of jumps in place.

(I'm feeling as 'normal' as always...)

I stop jumping and lean back against the pole.

(Isshin said that I also have strands of fibers in my whole body, but they are inactive. Hope that does not mean they can just randomly activate and turn me into a raisin. And to add to that fact, I wonder if

the fibers still affect my brain somehow. As I still don't seem to be alarmed by the thought. Or, I'm just fucked in the head overall...)

Another thirty minutes later, and I was at the school's entrance...

And, I'm not going to lie, I did end up constantly looking over my shoulder. With how the school uses life fibers I expected my new 'arm' to draw attention the moment I set foot in. Yet...

Nothing...

I went to the center like normal, I followed the students to my class as normal, and I took a seat as n..

"Ohh Hey! you're alive!" An excited female voice shouts from my right...

Normal?...

Turning to the voice I find Mako waving at me...

(... Out of all the people who could remember me...)

She then gets off her seat and trots up to me.

"What happened?! You were gone for like a month!" She asks as she excitedly slams my desk with both hands, a questioning look on her face...

(... Hmm, I know I should not. But I can't resist, I want to try something....)

"What are you talking about Mako. We were talking two days ago." I respond. Mako looks at me for a few seconds as she blinks blankly at me.

"We, were?" She asks with obvious confusion.

"Yea, you kept telling me how your mom makes those mystery croquettes that you can't get enough of." I answer as I fold my arms.

(I'm digging my own grave here, ain't I?)

"Ohhhhhh!" Mako then exclaims.

"While I can't remember telling you that! If you know it then it must have happened! " Mako responds as she giggles.

(... I would say that I can't believe that this just worked. But I if I really believed that then I wouldn't have tried it in the first place...)

"See, so, I was here." I respond as I raise my left hand.

"Humm? Hey what's that on your arm?" Mako then asks as she leans towards my gauntlet, switching the subject like a child whose attention span can't last more than five seconds...

(... And of course she would stick her nose in.)

"I like dressing up as a medieval dark knight." I respond flatly. Mako turns to stare at me with a slight frown, or more like, deep focus.

"Where is the rest of the armor then?" She asks as she keeps staring at me.

"Now Mako, I 'do' have to follow school regulations." I respond as I chuckle.

"Ohhh! Right of course!" Mako then nods multiple times.

Just then, Aikuro, now in his lame teacher getup enters the class, causing Mako to run back to her seat...

"Alright everybody, open your books to page...."

And Aikuro starts speaking, which meant it was my que, to stop paying attention.

(I know Isshin told me to pick a fight. But hell if I'm going to make myself a target. I've seen how that goes with Ryuko. Last thing I need is having a constant stream of two starts after my ass....)

Now the class, thankfully passed without any real incident...

And so, once the bell rang, I picked my stuff and turned to leave the class.

"Oi! Wait up~" A female voice shouts as I exit the classroom, Mako dashing up to me with a wide smile.

"Hey where are you going now? Got a club to be too? As your older classmate I do recommend that you don't end up late to a club. Us no stars can get harshly punished for being late." Mako pretty much opens the floodgates as she starts walking next to me.

"Not really, I'm not in a club yet. I want to see what exists first." I responded as I folded my arms.

"I see, I see. Makes sense. But you better not delay, not being in a club for too long means a random club can force recruit you!" Mako nods multiple times as she keeps speaking.

(They can? Well that's retarded. So much about avoiding clubs...)

"Hmm, good to know..." I answer as I nod.

We then kept walking for a bit among the crowd toward the exit...

(Uhh, my arm is starting to feel even weirder now. What gives...)

I raise my hand slightly and flex my fingers, a weird numbness enveloping my palm and forearm...

"Is something wrong?" Mako asks.

"What do you mean?" I ask as I turn to her.

"You have been staring at your hand. Are you sick? My dad is a doctor if you're sick! He can look at you!" She responds as she leans towards me.

"Nahh, I'm, good..." I answer as I lean away from her.

"Well remember to see a doctor if you're sick! People can die from feeling sick!" Mako nods back excitedly...

(With your dad there's a bigger chance I end up dead from him, rather than the 'sickness'. Plus I don't think he can do jack about alien parasites...)

"By the way are you not in a club? Since you told me that you need to be in o.."

"Oh NUGGETS! You're right crap got a goodbye!" And Mako throws her arms in the air as she makes a full turn and starts running with a rather, inhumanly fast dash...

Only to crash into a person, a middle height dude that was wearing a long coat with the life fiber pattern on the inside, a newsboy hat with life fibers on the visor. And two big round glasses that consisted only of the life fiber pattern, hiding the guy's eyes.

Much to my surprise though, it was the guy in the life fiber outfit that got knocked over, rather than Mako.

And, as Mako disappeared, the guy in the outfit darts his head towards me while still on the ground.

"Oh sh!" The guy exclaims as he quickly gets up and disappears inside a group of moving students.

(... I'm having a really bad feeling about this...)

Nonetheless, I let out a deep sigh and turn to walk again...

Yet...

(That weird feeling in my arm has skyrocketed after I spotted that guy in the coat. I'm being followed, am I not?)

And with that thought, I exit the school field, and stop by the tram stop. Glancing around me every few minutes...

(... Hmm, I don't see the guy anywhere. Guess he's...)

"Sniiiiffff. Interesting..." A new voice speaks up. From where my arm was at...

Turning to look at my arm, I find the same guy, holding my arm with both hands and, sniffing it?

"OH WHAT THE F!" I quickly jerk my arm up and jump away from the weirdo...

"Hummm. Yes, yes. That arm..." The guy responds as he gets up.

"That arm is making my senses tingle!" He then dramatically points at me.

"The hell are you?" I ask as I narrow my eyes.

"I'm Bob. Bob the HEAD OF THE DETECTIVE CLUB!" Bob exclaims as he strikes a pose.

"And you! Your arm is making my suit tingle!" He adds as he points at my gauntlet again...

(Ohh this is not good...)

"Tell me no star. What club do you belong to?" He asks as he pulls a magnifying glass from a spot I do not wish to know, and quickly trots up to me, essentially almost shoving the glass to my face...

"None. I'm new h..."

"Perfect! You're recruited!" Bob shouts as he cuts me off.

(What?! Oh come on!)

"Now come on! Our club room is..." And as he spoke, the tram arrived.

"Bob right? Look, I'm actually looking at the clubs in the school right now. I'm still looking at what to join ri.."

"Nonsense arm-man! You are now part of the detective club!" Bob cuts me off.

"Arm? Man?" I ask as I tilt my head...

"Of course, as a detective helper, we can't use your real name." He responds, then closes in on me and puts his hand over the side of his mouth, as if to whisper me secret.

"Bob is not my real name either." He chuckles...

(... Oh this is going to be 'great'. No actually, wait. This 'could' be a chance. Club members can become star wearers. Hmm...)

"Fine, 'Bob' I'm not letting you peek at my arm though." I responded.

"Ohh! A challenge! I LOVE challenges! Fine! I'll solve the mystery of your arm! Like a TRUE detective!" He exclaims...

(... Is he always gonna be this loud?...)

Jekins

"And so what we do is. WE ANALYZE. WE INVESTIGATE. WE THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX. WE, DETECT!" 'Bob' was running to a different point in the club room each time he yelled. From a whiteboard that was on the left, to the big window in the far end of the room, then to the side desks that had stacks of papers on them. Before finally jumping on the main table and spreading his arms. I, was just sitting on a chair, next to the main table...

"Uhh, yea..." I nod as I keep sitting.

"You keep saying, we. But uhh, all I see is you..." I add.

"Oh we do have members, don't worry. They are outside, DETECTING!" He responds as he closes up to me with his magnifying glass, causing me to lean back on my seat...

(Yu-kno personal space bro?)

"Sure. So, what do we, detect?"

"DETECT!" Bob shouts right after.

"Put some spirit into it! Come on!" He adds right after as he closes his face even more to me.

"I, think I'm going to be the silent investigator. You know, discrete, not attracting attention while our targets are distracted." I respond as I raise my finger.

"Ohh! Yes! Yesyesyesyesyes! You get it now! You'll be a pro detective in no time! Dare I say! You may even be star material!" Bob excitedly nods as he claps his hands.

(Damn that guy is hyper. But, I would not say no to a one star apartment...)

"As for what we do. We keep an eye out for ne'er do wells and out of ordinary phenomena. And you should know! Our club is highly esteemed! I even got praised by lady Satsuki herself once!" Bob proudly sticks his chest out.

"This outfit is proof of it!" He then twists the collar of his coat to show two stars attached to it.

"Oh and Gamagori Ira is to whom we answer! Our group falls under his jurisdiction as we can be considered as enforcement club!" He adds as he stands to attention, then salutes, the air?

"So here's your first assignment noobie!" And grabs a large stack of papers from the nearby desk...

(Oh please no...)

And then lets the stack fall to my legs.

"These are all reports from my club members! I want you to set them on 'important' to 'less important' and 'What the hell is this crap Jenkins.' sections!" Bob slaps three different sections of the table as he speaks.

"Have fun!" He then vaults over me, exits the club and...

- Lock-

"... I just heard the sound of a door locking..." I whisper as I glance behind me, at the now-closed door...

I then turn to look at the paper stack.

"Oh you gotta be shitting me..." I whisper...

"One start apartment Naier. One star apartment..." With a groan, I get up, and leave the stack of papers to the desk.

"What the crap is this shit Jenkins. What did he even mea..."

As I ask that, I glance at the first paper .

'-Subject.

A spy ninja cat.

-Info

A cat sneaked into the premises of the school without permission.
Upon closing in the cat fled by climbing up the school's wall using
ninjutsu.

-Verdict

Cat's still at large.

-Signed

Jenkins.'

(... This is going to be a long day....)

With a long sigh, I take a seat by the desk, and start looking at the
reports...

-10 minutes later-

'-Subject.

No star skipping class

-Info

A no star was caught skipping class on the 3rd period

-Verdict

Handed over to Gamagori

-Signed

Saro .'

(So you were skipping too? Does that mean I can skip class now?...)

-20 minutes later-

'-Subject.

Ghost window

-Info

Window to the second floor next to class Alpha Nine keeps opening by itself when I do my run around the corridor.

-Verdict

Request help from the paranormal club

-Signed

Jenkins.'

(Ghostbusters...)

-30 minutes later-

'-Subject.

Weird man in the drainage tunnels

-Info

Spotted an individual in the drainage tunnels, further investigation is needed as I lost the subject.

-Verdict

Spy? Hobo?

-Signed

Herako.'

(... Drainage tunnels? Did Aikuro almost get caught? Better inform it about it, Now uhh, let's put this on the important stuff, but, at the very bottom...)

-40 minutes later-

'-Subject.

Miss Satsuki looked at me!

-Info

Miss Satsuki looked at me today!

-Verdict

Miss Satsuki likes me!

-Signed

Jenkins.'

(... What the hell is this crap Jenkins?...)

-50 minutes later-

'-Subject.

I don't care

-Info

I don't care

-Verdict

I don't triple care

-Signed

I don't care.'

(I don't care)

-One hour later-

'-Subject.

Weird hobo by the entrance

-Info

Spotted a poorly dressed male outside. Have yet to see him appear again.

-Verdict

Spy?

-Signed

Herako.

(Wait, the date in this, is weeks ago. Is the guy talking about, me?)

-One hour and ten minutes later-

'-Subject.

Omiko Hakodate has balls!

-Info

Omiko Hakodate's hides like, millions of balls under her skirt!

-Verdict

Request permission to search Omiko Hakodate's skirt for more balls!

-Signed

Jenkins.

(Wording my dear Ballkins.)

-5 hours later-

By the time I was finally done, the stack was finally reduced to three, rather uneven stacks.

(One-sixth is with the important stuff, two sixths with none important. And, the other half left is filled by Jenkins.)

"God damn it Jekins..." I groaned as I got up.

"At least I'm done." I sigh as I head to the door and open it...

... open it...

"... The door is locked..." I whisper as I fail to open the door.

Looking around the room, the only exits are around was the door. And the window on the opposite side...

"Jump from the second-floor window?" I head up to the window, open it and look down...

"... Nope..." I shake my head as I look towards the ground that was, well. Flatly put way too far, felt more like five or four floors up rather than two...

"Uhh now wha... huh?" As I leaned on the window, I heard, music?

Turning my head to the left, I found another open window, about two classrooms away...

"... Am I, stupid enough?" I ask myself, then glance at my hand.

"I'm stupid enough." I answer flatly as I climb out the window.

Thankfully, there was a small catwalk for me to walk on, the problem was that...

"Holy shit I'm getting some intense vertigo with how the walls curve..." I kneel down as I try to grab the wall to my left, which felt, oddly soft...

"Wait, why is the wall so soft..." Turning to glance at my left, I found that my left hand was indeed on the wall, or more like, digging into the wall...

I blink a couple of times as I keep looking at my gauntlet, my fingers digging deep...

(... What the fuck...)

I pull my hand back, effortlessly removing my armored fingers from the wall...

(I just clawed a hole in the wall. Which fun fact is not concrete. Since the building itself is actually a giant robot...)

I shake my head. And while keeping my sight near my feet, I start walking toward the open window ahead of me...

(Look at me ma, I'm being a retard. And I'm not even drunk this time.)

Upon reaching the next window, I glance inside and...

(Oh come on!)

Uzu Sanageyama was with his arms folded, his back to the window, talking with a student in an old western gunslinger's outfit. The life fiber pattern on the guy's hat and frills showed he's a two-star.

I quickly pull myself back behind the wall...

(This is so retarded, need to change plans...)

I begin to turn around to return back, but...

-WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMP-

A sudden, loud trombone echoed.

And my feet were now touching air, as I found myself falling towards the ground...

(... Oh fucking hell!...)

I glance behind me as I reach for the wall...

(Too far!)

All I could do now, was stare at the ground that was quickly closing in. The sound of the wind screaming at my ears...

(To die from a friggin trombone! The hell's this crap?!)

I close my eyes as I bring my hands to the front of me and...

-THUD-

Silence. The wind stopped screaming, the world turned black...

(This, is ridiculous. To actually die, twice. And from a friggin trombone player nonetheless. At least, I'm not feeling any pain...)

I take a deep breath as I prepare to per...

(Wait, I can breathe?)

I slowly open one eye to see the ground a good sixty to seventy centimeters away from my face...

Both my hands against the ground, with all fingers still attached to their right position...

The only difference being, my right hand now had a couple of visible, blue glowing veins running through it...

I kept staring at my right hand as the glowing veins slowly faded out, returning my hand to return to its 'normal' look...

(... Uhh, what just happened?...)

I glance back towards the open window up in the distance...

"I fell, from up there. And, I'm still alive?" I ask as I slowly get up...

(Is everything still in place?)

After I get up I make a couple of jumps in place, before turning to look back up.

(... I feel fine.)

I then give myself a pad down.

(And nothing is missing)

I then quickly look around, to make sure nobody actually saw me...

(... Uhh, I better git, before somebody starts asking how a no star survived a fall that long...)

And, with a deep breath, I start walking towards Isshin's house.

(Something tells me that Ryuko's dad will want to know this. Also the fact that some weirdo could sniff the fibers in my left arm. Also need to warn Aikuro about his little hidy-spot being found.)

Pink panik

I don't know if it's because of the adrenaline rush from falling from hell knows what height, but I actually managed to return to Isshin's house in about half the time I normally do...

Now, as for what happened afterward. Nothing really...

I sort of expected Isshin to grab a scissor blade and come after me while shouting something along the lines. 'I need to test my theory! For SciEnCE!'

But instead, he just wrote down notes and took the gauntlet to do some edits to make life fibers harder to detect. And then, he let me go. Hell, I even skipped training today. Ok well, that, might not be entirely true. I 'did' spend like five hours separating damn reports about friggin ninja cats.

But other than that, the rest of the day passed uneventfully...

And so, the next day...

"One and a half hours..." I whisper as I look at my watch while standing out of the school's entrance...

(I figured it was the adrenaline rush. But nope, I actually did about half the time to get here today as well...)

I chuckle as I put my hands in my pockets.

(All the training in the world would not give me such a power creep. These life fibers are for all intents and purposes, broken as fuck. If you don't count the fact that they're an alien parasite that aims to turn the earth into a giant yarn ball before exploding into seedling space dust...)

"Hmm, You're here early." And just then a voice spoke up. Turning to look to my side, I found Aikuro walking up to me from the path that led to the one-start district.

"Same can be said for you." I responded after I turned to him.

"Please, I'm a teacher. The only times I was barely on time were the ones that I had to babysit you." Aikuro responds, and then turns to move away.

"I'll see you in class." He adds.

"Ah, one more thing!" I raise my hand, causing Aikuro to stop and turn to glance at me.

"As a member of the Detective club, I need to inform you. They spotted some, blue-haired weirdo in the drainage tunnels. Some say he's a spy. There will be a search there soon. If you wanna join." I add as I put my hands to my pockets.

"I, see. I'll pass the information on." Aikuro nods before turning around.

"Good work." He adds he starts walking, making thumbs up without turning around.

(Yer welcome mister pink nipples.)

So now, I was by myself in front of the gates of the giant ass school...

"What do I do now..." I put my hands in my pocket and head next to the entrance of the school, then lean my back to it...

"Guess I'll stroll around inside the school." I sigh as I head inside...

You know, in retrospect. I should have known it was a bad idea to enter the school this early...

Wanna know why? It's because the only people here were probably the teachers. Angry eyebrows Satsuki. And the student council...

So imagine my surprise when a certain pink-haired shorty with an attitude larger than herself spawned in my field of vision...

She was mumbling, as if in deep thought. Until she raised her head. And ended up seeing me before I could make myself scarce...

(... I'm getting some really bad vibes right now.)

"Hmm? A no star? Perfect~." She whispers.

"You there. Come with me." She commands as she turns around to start walking towards the main building.

(... Please kill me...)

I let out a silent sigh as I turn to follow the casualty witty Nonon...

"Why are you here this early, no star?" She asks as I walk up behind the short girl.

"I could not sleep." I respond flatly.

"Can't even do that right no star?" She answers with a snarky remark...

(... Oh go fuck your self you damn midget...)

"Well, time to make yourself useful~" She chimes as we enter the main building,

Then, we head straight towards the clubrooms.

After that, we enter a room with various instruments, all haphazardly tossed around the room.

"I need these set on sets, violins with violins, guitars with guitars."
She casually points inside the room.

"Be done before school starts, this won't be an excuse for you being late to class. And don't even think about leaving the task I so graciously placed upon you half-finished either." Nonon turns to me with a smirk, before starting to walk out of the room.

(Why don't you graciously jump off a cliff instead of dumping work on me you damn pink goblin...)

"There are pianos here..." I whisper as I keep staring at the chaos in the room...

"Oh and if you break anything..." She turns to glance at me with a serious look.

"I'm going to break you in half." She adds, before turning to leave for good.

(... Oh I so look forward for the moment Ryuko wipes the floor with you, you pink damn troll...)

I take a deep breath and head to close the door. Then turn to look at the class again.

(Ok, let's set things in line. We have.

Pianos, guitars, basses, violins, cellos, accordions, flutes, drums, tubas, and, trombones....)

I shiver slightly as I remember my yesterday's encounter with the trombone 'scarejump'.

(Pianos and drums take the most space, so we'll put them on the left side, and move the tables on the left side to the right. Guitars and basses will go on the tables. Cellos are big, so against the wall. Flutes on tables next with the violins, trombones can go fuck themselves, and tubas will go next to the cellos...)

I start placing the tables in straight rows of twos, then start setting each instrument in sets. And yea, I placed the trombones next to the violins and flutes. I might have nearly died from one. But the last this I need is Nonon chewing my ass...

-10 minutes later... -

(There, everything other than the pianos and drums is set.)

I nod as I take a step back.

(Funny how I didn't even break a sweat so far...)

Then turn to look at the pianos...

(So far..)

I let out a deep sigh, and walk up to the nearest piano.

(Well, Here goes...)

I crouch slightly and grab under the piano with both hands.

"Guess I'm pulling now." I nod, and slam my foot down to drag the piano along with me as I tried to walk backward...

Tried, being the word...

As I ended up lifting the piano in the air, vertically, with me bending like I was trying to go under a limbo pole.

"Oh what the fuck!?" I quickly slide one foot back to balance myself, then slowly lower the piano, until it was safely on the ground again...

(This, just happened...)

I let out a sigh as I start to carefully walk in reverse, until I walked to the end of the room. Where I stopped dragging the piano. I then turn

to look at my right hand, the same blue veins visible once again, just much less, glowy...

(It's official, the life fibers activate every time push comes to shove...)

I glance around me to make sure nobody was looking. Its a good thing these classes had no windows towards the hallways.

(Well then. Let's get this done...)

I nod to myself, and head straight to the next piano...

-10 minutes later-

"There we go. Done and done." I dust my hands off as I look at the now must less chaotic room...

"So, now what? I wait for her highness?" I whisper as I tilt my head.

And with a shrug, I walk up to the window, then turn around to face the door.

"Guess I'll wait till the clock hits school time." I add as I let out a long breath...

Without anything to do, I just found myself staring absentmindedly around the room. Letting out the occasional yawn...

(Uhh. Why do I suddenly feel like I didn't sleep for three weeks...)

I groan as I slap my cheeks, then look at my hands. The veins were now nowhere to be seen.

(Huhh, do the fibers tire me out? I mean, they are supposed to drain me so...)

I then turn to look at the pianos...

(But to feel this tired from lifting these. While sure, they 'are' pianos, not something an everyday Jenkins can lift...)

I let out another yawn as I close my eyes and put my armored hand over my mouth.

"Are you slacking off you lazy bum?" A sharp female voice speaks up from the door...

(Of course you'd show your small ass the moment I was doing nothing...)

I open my eyes to find Nonon with her arms folded, tapping her foot.

"Uhh, slacking off?" I ask as I 'show' the class with my hand.

Nonon tilts her head and enters the room.

"Oh?..." She lifts an eyebrow as she looks at the now lined-up organs.

"Well well well, maybe you're not 'totally' useless for a dirty cretin." Nonon nods as she looks around.

"What club do you belong to no star?" She asks as she glances at me.

"Detective club." I respond flatly.

"Huh, so the gorilla is responsible for you." She adds as she starts to casually walk around the room.

(Gorilla? I guess that is Gamagory?)

"Well, I'm rather impressed. How about you leave your stupid club and come to join one under my name? For a lame no star, you might have some potential if you managed to finish this fast without breaking anything. I could probably turn you into something more than just a useless waste of space." Nonon asks as she keeps

looking at the instruments, occasionally stopping to lean over a random instrument to take a closer look, her hands on her lower back all the while.

(... Father, I crave violence...)

"Thank you for the offer. But since I'm already in a club, I have to stick with it." I respond.

"Hmm? Loyal ain't you? Maybe I should call you mut instead of no star." Nonon casually remarks as she keeps looking around.

(Oh, I should be so honored to get a nickname from you, toxic pink midget.)

I didn't respond. Since voicing remotely what I thought about her would probably send me six feet under. At best...

After a few minutes of silence, she turns to look at me.

"Are you always this boring?" She asks.

"I found that when I don't have anything good to say, it's better to not speak at all." I respond as I keep my arms folded.

"Hmm, not going to argue with that. Some monkey I know could benefit from that line of thought." Nonon giggles slightly, or more like, snorts slightly.

"You can go no star." She adds as she nonchalantly waves her arm, turning to look towards the instruments again.

(Finally...)

With a small nod, I lean away from the window, and head towards the exit...

(As much as I like your company, I feel my face slowly falling off from all the toxicity...)

Once I was out, I followed the same path I and Nonon used to get back out.

(Huh? There's actually a good amount of people gathered now.)

I tilt my head as I look at several groups of students gathered outside. Then, turn to look at my watch.

(Hmm there's still like one hour till class starts...)

Without anything to do, I head back out of the school. Towards the spot I waited the very first time I got here, next to the main gates.

(Still. If I can get on the good side of the student council. I could climb up the bullshit ladder faster...)

I close my eyes as I groan.

(On the other hand, getting friendly with them, will get an angry Ryuko after me...)

I shake my head as I open my eyes.

(So, let's just be as inconspicuous as possible for now. I should be fine in a club, as long as they don't go after Ryuko themselves. And I didn't see any detective club in the anime. So either it got spared the stripping. Or it was among the many that got ripped apart during the episode where Ryuko makes a club. But honestly, that's still many months away. No point worrying about it...)

I nod slightly as I keep looking at the students that slowly start to gather...

(Actually, speaking of the anime. There's one important thing I do not remember. No late day. How often does it happen? Granted with the blue fibers I stand a good chance to pass the gauntlet. But I do 'not' want to wake up unprepared to a friggin silent hill siren.)

And like that, the one hour passed without any more 'surprises'. Up until the bell rang and we gathered by the center. And just as we got packed up like sardines...

"Hey. Hey hey hey..." I hear somebody whisper as something nudged my side. Turning to the voice, I find Mako, nudging me.

"Morning~" She whispers as she waves at me.

"Morning" I reply as I raise my hand.

After that, I got to class and took my seat as normal.

(God, I think I'll fall asleep today...)

I let out a small yawn as I lean against the desk.

And as Aikuro entered the class and silence started to take over...

(Oh well, time to copy Ma...)

The door violently swung open...

"Detective club business! Is the new recruit here!?" A loud voice 'asks'...

(Oh for fucks sake!)

I open my eyes to see a 'no face' one star by the door.

"Uhh, that'd be me." I raise my hand with a slight groan.

"Good, you're needed in the club room right now." The one star responds.

"Excuse me, but we're sort of in the middle of class..." Aikuro responds as he turns to the one star.

"Gamagori's orders." The one star flatly answers.

"Oh, Ok..." Aikuro then turns to glance at me, before turning to his chalkboard.

(De-za-vu. This feels like the start of the anime...)

I get up and head towards the exit of the class.

(Hope I don't end up naked and hanged...)

Once I exited the class, the one-star turned to walk away.

"Ira Gamagori is by the club's room. We will head there right now." The one star adds with a serious tone as he starts walking.

"Something happened?" I ask.

"Several new reports were deemed top priority. Your club will immediately dispatch for further investigation." The one star responds.

(So, nothing that hang me for? Good. Also class skip for the win. I just wish I was not this tired...)

We then walked through the silent hallways, with only the occasional voice of a speaking teacher sounding up. And upon reaching the same room mister 'Bob' locked me in yesterday. The one star knocked, and entered.

Inside, several one stars, standing in attention on a line. Among them, Bob, sticking out like a shore thumb with his different attire. On the desk I sat yesterday, Gamagori, looking at a few papers.

"Gamagori sir! I brought the new recruit!." The one star shouts as he salutes.

Gamagori lifts his head to look at me.

"You are the new recruit?" Gamagori asks as he gets up from his chair. I just nod.

"I am Gamagori Ida! The one responsible for this club! And I will warn you once! This club is part of this school's security! This means that failure is NOT an option!" Ira puts his hands behind his back as he speaks, sticking his already wide chest out.

"As a no star, you will be on a need-to-know basis! If you stick your nose where it should not be at! I will rip it off myself!" He adds. I just, nod again.

(God, everybody is so. Not nice here...)

"Now! I want you to check these three reports by the end of the day, and have them solved before the next day school bell! GET TO IT!" He points his finger at the table, where three sheets of paper were laid, then turns to walk away from the table.

"Sir!" Bob answers as he vigorously salutes.

And with that. Gamagory and a couple of the one stars left the room. Leaving me, Bob, and four more one stars...

"Alright team, get in teams of two and take a report to look at. I will team up with the new guy!" Bob turns to look at the rest as he puts his hands on his waist.

With a nod, the other members split into two groups, and then each group took a single report. Leaving me, Bob, and a single piece of paper on the table.

"So, Bob. What we are going to do?..." I ask.

"It's Masako Kirino." Bob responds as he walks up to the table, taking the paper.

"My name. Since you're officially a member now I'll let you know. But remember! Outside this room! I am Bob!" He adds as makes a thumbs up at me.

"Here, tell me what you think." He then gives me the paper.

On it...

'-Subject.

Missing student council food shipment.

-Info

Nonon reported missing food ingredients used to make the student council's food.

Reported missing items are strawberries, berries, cherries and whipped cream.

Nonon is giving a personal reward if the shipment is returned edible.

-Verdict

Thievery or misplacement is possible.

Haikuro.'

(... Hmm? I'm pretty sure this was not here yesterday. Or I'd remember that Nonon is looking for a shipment of strawberries and whipped cream...)

"So, what do think?" Bob asks.

"First is that we don't have a lot of time. All missing items are among the fastest perishables." I say as I fold my arms.

"While the items can be on the expensive side, if it's a thief that is. They'll need to have a seller on the ready. And the seller will need to move fast. Our location is too remote for that. And using fast transport, like air or a fast boat, would be too risky since it would be easily spottable..." I add, Kirino just stayed quiet.

"So, I'm thinking that it was stolen to be consumed. So slums. As one start have too much to lose if they get busted for strawberries.

And two stars, judging from their houses, can have that stuff for free. That, or they misplaced them." As I finish speaking Kirino nods.

"It was not a misplacement. We already checked. So to the slums then?" He asks.

"It could be a suspect from anywhere, hell a two-star with kleptomaniac tendencies could have done it. But we need to focus on the bigger suspects and then move up from there. Nobody is innocent unless proven, but since we are sort of time, we don't have the leisure to check each pebble." I answer, and Kirino nods again.

"My thoughts exactly! I knew I had a good feeling for you! To the slums then!" Kirino explains as he raises his hand.

So, we left the school. And headed, to the exit the two stars used...

And...

(... Well, holy, fuck...)

Other than the fact that the place had several small gardens, each with a different set of colored flowers, several gondolas in a line, and a water fountain every so often...

"Who's the one coming to school with a helicopter?..." I ask as I point at a nearby landing pad.

"Hmm, I know for sure the aviator club used to use it. Got disbanded two years ago though. No idea who uses it now." Kirino shrugs.

"This is ours." He then points at a lifting gondola ahead of us.

"You mean the others are not?" I ask.

"Of course not. Each gondola is personal for two stars." Kirino chuckles as he enters his gondola.

(... This is just overkill...)

"So we'll go to your house and then go to the slums from there?" I ask as the gondola starts to move.

"Ha! Look and be amazed!" Kirino responds as he taps on a small screen next to his seat, and the gondola starts to shake, before detaching from the cables.

(What's with me and falling?...)

The gondola, while falling through the air, opens at the bottom, revealing a smooth, circular silver metallic surface.

And the moment the gondola hit the ground, it started to skid down the downhill grassy field, before launching off a naturally made dirt ramp, going over the living quarters of the one stars, and straight towards the slums. All the while, Kirino was laughing uncontrollably like a lunatic...

(Didn't I sort of, die like this?)

"Ahahahah! Watch out below!" He shouts as the gondola crashes into a small backyard...

"Alright~ We need a codename for you!" Kirino chimes as he looks at me from top to bottom, completely unshaken from the fact that we literally just had a high-speed crash. He then loudly claps and points at my gauntlet.

"Glove!" He exclaims.

"From now on your codename is glove!" He shouts once again...

"Alright glove! Let's go find the missing strawberries!" He adds with a laugh as he exits the now smoking gondola, totally ignoring the onlookers as he walked with a skip on his step.

(... This guy, is way to fucking hyper...)

Yo, the author here. Chapter 10 is actually still in script form, soooooo. That's all I essentially got pre-written in google drive for kill-la-kill.

This is now on indefinite Hiatus until I can either finish my hotd fic. Or until I can waste fewer hours a day working so I don't starve...

Strawberries

"Hmmm..." Arms folded, I looked at the downhill, badly paved road.

('Bob' has decided we split up to gather info faster, but...)

"... I got no friggin idea where to start" I groan as I start walking again.

"Fat chance the foodstuffs are still intact too. Just hope they won't ask us to rip somebody's stomach open for proof..." I sigh as I look around.

"So, how do I go about this?" I mumbled as I tapped my metallic glove.

(If I was a strawberry thief, where would I be?)

A few minutes passed with me wandering around aimlessly. Hoping to find a trail of strawberries or something.

"... This ain't working, obviously..." I groan as I look around.

"Wonder if he had any luck" I add as I pull a small radio Kirino game me.

"This is glove. Any luck over there? Over." I ask.

" *Negative glove. People here seem to avoid me for some reason, really peculiar. Over* " Kirino responds.

(Maybe because you crash-landed an ufo in somebody's backyard? And is dressed in a two-star outfit?)

"Very weird indeed. Over" I answer as I look at the few people passing by.

" *That can mean only one thing. Over* " Kirino then lowers the tone of his voice.

"People avoid other people in the slums because they trust nobody due to horrid living conditions? Over" I ask.

" *Maybe. But no! It means they are all part of this heist! I shall ask for a full carpet bomb of the location! Over.* " Kirino exclaims.

"Wait, who the hell you can ask to carpet bomb a whole district? Over" I ask as I frown.

" *The demolition club. In coordination with the slingshot club. Used to be the aviation club, but with their club leader gone, they disbanded.* Over " Kirino responds casually.

(... I should not be surprised by the wackness anymore...)

"Uhh, let's hold off on wiping the place off the map for now. Strawberries might still be around here. Over." I sigh slightly as I keep moving.

"... *Yea, you are right, the strawberries might still be here. We shall do a tighter sweep, then, BOMB THEM!* Over " Kirino answers excitedly.

(Great, now I got to find the thief or this nutjob blows up the slums...)

I groan and close my eyes as I pocket the radio.

"The hell I got myself into..." I groan as I keep walking, looking at the ground as I shake my head.

And then, I noticed it, right in front of me. On the ground, a long chain, ending in a noose right around my foot...

"Oh you gotta b..." And before I could finish that sentence.

"NOW!" A voice shouts. And the chain yanked my leg, violently flinging me up until I was upside down a good meter or so above the ground.

"..." I just stood, or more like hanged there, arms folded...

"You thought you could make a fool out of me you damn hobo!" An angry, childish voice shouted off, and sure enough, Mako's little brother shows up with his little posse. The chain that lifted me up was using a broken lamppost as leverage before going down to a nearby metallic pole that looked like to be the remains of a railing. One of the kids still tying the chain around the pole.

"Using my sister to get away! Are you even a man!" He exclaims as he points at me with a smug look on his face.

"Do you know any people that might have stolen strawberries from the school?" I ask nonchalantly.

"Haaah? Has the blood clotted your brain hobo? You should be begging me for forgiveness right now!" Mataro puts his hands in his pockets and walks up to me all 'gangster like'

"Actually, if I do not find em, this district will get carpet bombed" I answer with a deadpan tone.

"Riiight, sure. By a pack of angry seagulls?" Mataro asks with a smirk.

"Yes, seagulls gonna come, poke you in the coconut." I answer with a shrug.

(... Let's test these blue fibers huh...)

"But now that you mentioned it..." I tilt my head as I look at the chain on my leg, bend to reach it...

And fail...

"..." Mataro just stared at me with an arched eyebrow.

"I think he is trying to reach the chain boss..." One of the kids whispered.

"I can see that you retard." Mataro groaned.

"Oi! Do I need to teach you..."

"Ah fuck that!" I shout as I cut Mataro off, and quickly bend my caught leg, this time grabbing the chain with my armored hand, I then twirl the chain around my arm, and yank the chain as hard as I can.

And with a metallic -KTANK-, the railing pole that held me up, was now flying over the broken lamppost, towards a random direction in the sky, with the chain still attached to it. While in the meantime, I rolled in the air and landed on my feet.

"Blood 'was' starting to get to my head." I nonchalantly shrug, then yank my armored arm forward, causing the metal pole to quickly fly toward me. Only for me to lean to the side and grab it as it stopped right in front of Mataro's frozen face.

"So, Mataro, my boi. I'll ask again, do you know any people that might have stolen any strawberries from the school?" I ask again as I tap Mataro's head with the pole, small chunks of cement raining on his head.

"Y, you don't scare me! That pole was probably loose!" Mataro slaps the pole away as he jumps back.

"Ah shit, that hurt." He mumbles as he massages the hand he just slapped the pole with.

"Boss are you alrig..."

"What are you idiots doing?! Get him!" Mataro cuts the second kid off, who in turn quickly nodded and turned to face me, pulling a small

pair of badly maintained knives.

"B, but he..." The third kid, which held a chain with a rather dull blade at the end begins to whine as he glances at Mataro.

"I don't care! Atta... !" Mataro cuts off the third kid as he starts to shout...

-BONK-

-BONK-

Yet before He could finish, I quickly moved up to him and 'lightly' land the pole on his head, then proceeded to bonk the knife-wielding kid next to him, both of them hunching over and grabbing their heads, the latter dropping the knives in the prosses.

I then turn to stare at the third kid.

"... Hi." I mumble a deadpan voice.

"H,hiiii!" The chain kid just raised his arms and turned tail, the chain flailing behind him, followed shortly after by a fourth kid that actually just stood there and did nothing all this time.

"Wha, why are you running you fuckin..."

-BONK-

And I bonk Mataro on the head as he begins to speak again.

"Language" I calmly sigh as I kick the knives away.

"Now, do you want to find out if the pole was loose or not?" I 'ask' as I bring the pole's underside, which still had cement pieces attached to it close to his nose.

"Uhh..." Mataro stares at the pole for a few seconds...

"We. We're really, really sorry!" He quickly backed off, grabbing the second kid and forcing it to bow its head to the ground along with him...

(De-za-vu...)

"Well, I'm still rather irked with how you guys tried to rob me, again" I groan as I flip the pole, tapping it on my hand.

"So I'll give you a choice. You tell me who stole those strawberries from the school's elite food supply..." I twirl the pole with one hand, or at least tried to, as it almost flew off my hand...

Good thing both kids were with their heads down...

"I, I don't know who stole from the damn school!" Mataro shouts as he keeps looking at the ground.

"Then find them" I shrug.

"Hey! That's not fair!" Mataro finally lifts his head as he glares at me. Only to quickly hit the ground the moment I glared back.

"You are a known mobster here are you not?" I ask.

"Uhh, well." Mataro just mumbled.

"Our boss is the biggest mobster in the slums!" The other kid shouts, no idea if it was to take heat off itself, or if it was actually proud of that.

"Well, you mean to tell me that the big ass mobster can't use his connections to find who stole a bunch of strawberries?" I fold my arms as I tilt my head.

"That's..." Mataro just mumbled again.

"Your choice. Find who stole that food, or..." I stop speaking as I raise an eyebrow.

"Or..." Mataro raises his head, trying to, puppy eyes me?

"Or I'll knock on your house door with an arrest warrant. Stealing from the elite four? Wonder what punishment one can get for that..." I shrug.

"But I didn't steal the strawberries!" Mataro shouts back.

"Life ain't fair I guess. Or I can just turn you into a purple ball here and now for trying to rob me when I did not fight back..." I shrug again.

"Uhhh, Ok! Ok! I'll, I'll find them!" Mataro quickly gets up and bows multiple times.

"Just a note in advance. I know where you live, if I don't have my info till the sun is out, or you try to play me..." I grab the pole with both hands.

"Bad things might happen." I narrow my eyes as I easily bend the pole to an L shape.

"O, of course..." Mataro keeps nodding as he backs off.

I then take the radio.

"Bob, meet up at the starting location. Note the radio will be given to an, acquaintance that has connections in the slums. Over" I speak up.

" *Uhh, noted, make sure they don't lose it. Over.* " Kirino responds.

"This thing has a tracker. Don't do anything funky." I toss the radio to Mataro as I speak. Who just keeps nodding as he catches the radio, then throws a light kicks to the other kid and turns to run.

(... I left the radio to constantly be 'on'. With Kirino's radio we should be able to listen in.)

I nod, and turn to head back to the crashed gondola.

(Boy, I know they were like, just kids. But payback feels fucking good. Am I petty, yes I am.)

-15 minutes later-

I was sitting inside the crashed gondola because that place was actually more comfortable than anything else around here.

"Glove! Are you here!?" And Kirino, who just turned the corner, starts shouting.

(God fucking detective my ass, the guy should be a siren alarm.)

I lean out the gondola and wave my arm. Kirino noticed me and waved back.

"Glove I don't know what you did to these people you gave the radio to, but they seemed extra determined!" Kirino exclaims as he shows me his radio.

"One of them even kept mumbling something about his sister cooking him alive!" He adds with a cackle as he enters the gondola himself, closing the door behind him.

"So they are actually looking, good." I answer silently.

"Oh yea, and get that! They might even have a target!" Kirino exclaims excitedly again.

"Apparently one of them heard about a certain individual in their circle which they spotted with a bag of rather rare fruits here in the slums." He adds with a grin.

"Ohh if we find the perpetrator with the shipment intact! Miss Non-non might even personally award us!" Kirino then fist pumps with both hands.

(... Uhh, I don't know if I want to get awarded by that pink troll. Though, if getting recognized by her means a faster climb toward a one-star...)

"What are you going to ask from Miss Non-non if we find the merchandise?" He asks right after.

"Probably faster transition to a one-star." I shrug.

"Ahh, right, you are no star right now right?" He asks back, I just nod.

"Well fear not, do well and you will be a one-star in no time!" He pats my back with a wide smile.

"So, should we keep looking?" I ask.

"I would say yes normally, but your friends seem to know the place better than us. No point wasting energy for no reason is what I say!" Kirino leans back in his seat as he puts his hands behind his head.

"So, let's see what the other teams are doing!" He adds as he as quickly picks up his radio and starts tweaking it.

"Uhh, I don't think that's a good idea." I cut him off.

"Humm? What do you mean by that?" He asks with visible confusion.

"What if the people I sent contact us while you are tuned in to another frequency?" I ask.

"Ahhh, good point." Kirino nods as he keeps looking at the radio, then leans to leave it on the seat ahead of us.

"By the way. I was meaning to ask." He then turns to me.

"Do you live here?" He asks right after.

"Why you're asking?" I ask back.

"Well, what other reason would you have to stop the carpet bombing?" He asks back nonchalantly.

(... Are people here 'this' indifferent about one another?)

"If there is at least one innocent person here, I'd rather not level the place." I respond flatly.

"I see, you're still new here after all." He responds as flatly.

"I suppose in order to climb here you need to make a staircase of bodies?" I ask back.

"That's an, unpleasant way to say it. But, you are not wrong. It's not the only way, but it's the fastest one. Especially if you want to reach the top" He responds as he looks at his hands.

"Hah! Well, let's see how long you will be able to keep it up!" He responds as he starts laughing, throwing a few pats on my back.

(Considering we are on borrowed time, that's a good question.)

" *Hey Hob, I mean sir! We found him!* " And the radio shouts.

"Oh? Your friends are good!" Kirino excitedly responds as he grabs the radio.

"Very good, glove's accomplices. We shall be there shortly!" He responds as he jumps up, and hits his head on the gondola's ceiling with a loud 'dong'.

Seemingly ignoring the hit he tweaks his radio and...

"This is the leader of the detective club. Yes, inform our client we have them!" He adds.

"Uhh, correct me if I'm wrong, but the client is Nonon right?" I ask.

"Yes." He nods back.

"You just told em, to tell her, that we got the culprit before we even got there?..." I ask with an arched eyebrow.

"Yes! So we better hurry up!" He chuckles as he jumps out the gondola.

(Oh lord...)

I follow behind him, only for him to stops.

"Oh wait..." He mumbles and runs back into the gondola...

"Uhh did you forg..." And before I could finish, the gondola opens at the top, a pole erecting from the top. Before splitting into two, creating a helicopter rotor.

"What are you standing there for glove!? GET TO THA CHOPPA!" He shouts excitedly as he motions at me.

"Arnold? Is that you?" I ask as I start to walk towards the gondola now turned helicopter thing.

"Who's Arnold? I'm Bob remember?" Kirino tilted his head.

"A robot from the future." I respond with a flat tone, Kirino looking as confused as before.

"So, we going?" I ask as I sit.

"Of course!" Kirino nods, and pulls out a gamepad out of nowhere. Along with a set of what looked to be VR headset?

He then wears them, and...

(Where did he pull these from... Actually never mind, I better just hold on to something)

Following my gut feeling I grab tight on one of the handles I found next to me and...

The gondola took off, slowly...

(Hmm? I figured he'd b...)

And before I could finish that though, the gondola took off, with WTF Mach speed, zipping around like a drunken fly, I think we took a few roofs with us too. All the while, Kirino was laughing like a lunatic.

"This my friend was a parting gift from the aviation club's leader to me! Amazing isn't it! It can even fly upside down!" He shouts as he keeps flying like a drunkard. And then, with a sharp twirl, he turns the heli-gondola, upside down...

"How the hell? Helicopters are not supposed to work like that!" I shout as I look at the rotor, now spinning on the underside of the gondola...

"I don't know! SCIENCE!" Kirino shouts back as he keeps laughing, before he starts barrel-rolling the gondola...

(... I give up, fuck it...)

I let out a sigh, close my eyes, and wait for us to reach, or crash into, our destination...

-3 minutes later-

"I see it! The signal is coming from. That House!" Kirino shouts as he points in a random direction, VR n all...

"Look alive Glove! We're going in hot!" Kirino shouts.

"... You're going to crash into the building are you not?" I ask I take a deep breath.

"Ye..." And before he could finish that sentence.

-CRASH-

The gondola cannonballed itself straight into the wall of a building...

"Time to bust some heads!" Kirino, seemingly immune to the impact, kicks the gondola's door open as he throws the VR headset. Then jumps into the dust cloud that had surrounded the gondola.

"By the power bestowed to me by the school! You are under arrest for thievery!" He shouts as I start hearing, thuds, thumping, and groans?

(Huh, with that speed I figured we'd make a crater in the island...)

I slowly exit the gondola, walk past the cloud and see Kirino, holding down, Mataro.

"What the hell is wrong with you, you idiot! I spend ten minutes trying to sneak in here undetected!" Mataro shouts back from the ground.

"Uhh, that guy is on our side." I add as I point at Mataro. Kirino looks at me, then at Mataro.

"Hmm, very good disguise indeed. Fooled me I must say." Kirino casually gets up and lifts the brat to its feet, wipes some dust off Mataro, and starts to look around.

"Yes, disguise." Mataro grumpily responds as he wipes himself.

"I'd tell you that the guys are downstairs in an underground room and are not expecting us. But that plan is now fucked, ain't it?" He adds as he narrows his eyes at Kirino.

Meanwhile, I looked around, and sure enough, I spotted several closed transparent punnets full of strawberries next to the staircase that went downstairs. Along with several open empty punnets scattered about. Hell I could even see strawberries scattered on the floor, some intact, some squashed

(Strawberries? Good sign, Mataro is at least partly reliable.)

"Underground Huh?! Like worms! They are hiding under the earth! Time to bust some correct heads!" And Kirino runs off again, down the stairs...

Leaving me and Mataro just standing there.

"Word of advice, you might not want to be here when the elite four that asked for this capture arrives." I speak up as I start to walk towards the stairs Kirino run towards too.

"I was not aiming to stick around anyways." Mataro responds as he turns to exit through the now-collapsed wall.

"Actually, hold on a sec." I respond as stop next to the stairs. The sound of once again, shouting, thudding, and groaning echoed from the half-open door at the bottom of the staircase.

"What, I don't have time f..." Mataro tries to whine in displeasure as he turns towards me with slumped shoulders. Only to see a strawberry punnet flying toward him.

He grabs it, looks at it, then at me, then at it again.

"Guess these guys ate three more punnets" I respond as I walk up to him, putting two more punnets on the one he was holding.

"Unless you don't want em." I 'ask' back as I shrug.

"N, NO! I MEAN YES! YES!" Mataro nods multiple times as his eyes start to shine, leaving two punnets on a nearby wall chunk and opening the third one with an expression of a kid ready to open a Christmas present...

"Oh my God ohmyGot ohmtgot struwbrrys!" He exclaims as he quickly grabs a handful of strawberries and shoves them in his mouth, leaves and all. Then just, closes his eyes and cocks his head upwards, tears running down his cheeks as he chews.

"Suo... guuud..." He mumbles as he keeps, crying?

"Uhh, as I said, I recommend you bail." I speak up as I snap my fingers at him.

Mataro quickly shakes his head, nods and grabs the other two punnets, then turns to leave.

"Heh, for a hobbo, you're not so bad." He grins at me all 'bad ass' like, before jumping off the building.

"... I'm not a fucking hobbo. I'm a freeloader. Or now that I think about it, I'm a guinea pig for that old man, so maybe not so 'free' either..." I sigh as I turn to head towards the staircase, to see a rather fat guy run up the stairs, gasping for air.

He turns to look around frantically, spotting me a second later.

"Shit! More of you?!" He shouts as he quickly turns to run in the opposite direction, though he did not manage to get too far, as he ended up tripping under his own weight.

"More of us? Guess I 'am' part of the extermination team. Still, how the hell did you even manage to make off with the elite's food is beyond me..." I groan as I scratch my head. And slowly start to walk up to him. The guy turned to stare at me with his eyes wide open when I said the word 'extermination'.

"I know times be hard. But out of all the people you could rob, it had to be the elite four?" I ask, stopping a few meters away from him, while in the meantime he turns to his back.

"It's not ma faulght! They left the boxes there! In plain view by the gondola that went to the school! We're starving here!" The fat guy shouts.

"You don't look 'that' hungry." I respond as I point at the guy's drum belly.

"Are, are you fat shaming me!?" The fat guy yelps back.

"No, I'm brain-shaming you, because you clearly lack one for stealing supplies destined for the school and thinking nothing would come out of it." I shrug.

I think I heard a 'pop' sound as the fat guy's face turned red with an angry scowl.

"I'll, I'll beat you up! AAAAHHHH!" He quickly tries to get up, and charges unsteadily straight at me, leaning his body forward as he raised his arm...

Only for me to sidestep as he uncontrollably barreled towards the collapsed wall, tripping on some rubble and face-planting once again, right next to the edge of the broken wall...

"Glove! One of em esca... Oh, You got him! Good job!" And Kirino pops out of the staircase. Then makes a thumbs up as he runs up to me.

"The merch is downstairs, some of it has already been violated sadly." He adds as he stops next to me.

"So, we wait?" I ask.

"Yes, for Miss Nonon and her guard to arrive." He nods.

"Also help me gets the crates up here, she will want to see the merch." he continues.

And so, we spent the next ten or so minutes moving crates, after tying up the last thief, I would say we kept watching them, but honestly, except from the fat guy, the others did not seem, capable of walking anymore, all seven of them...

...

..

Until, the sound of rotor blades.

"Ahh, they're here!" Kirino exclaims as he points through the wall gap, towards a helicopter that was flying in our direction.

(Is everybody here moving around with helicopters? Ah wait, I forgot, rich people be like...)

And soon after, the helicopter disappeared over the house we were in...

"How are they going to..." And before I could finish that sentence...

-CRACK-

A small hole in the ceiling. Pieces of the roof raining in front of us.

A few seconds later, a rope appeared through the hole, before something violently blasted through the small ceiling hole creating an actual hole this time, revealing. A person in parade attire? Followed by a second, a third, a fourth...

Until there was essentially a goddamn army inside the already packed house.

(She brought all her midgets with her?)

Then they quickly lined up, raise a bunch of trumpets and...

(... Really?)

"All attention! Nonon of the elite four is here!" One of the guys shouts before he starts blowing on his trumpet, followed shortly after by the rest of his entourage.

In the meanwhile, yet another person appeared through the roof, this one sliding down the rope slowly, the difference was that this guy had a Nonon on his shoulder. Said Nonon looking bored as ever,

cross-legged, yawning, her elbow using his head as leverage, with her cheek plastered on her hand...

Once the guy reached the floor, he kneeled, Yet Nonon stayed on his shoulder. Leaning her elbow on the top of his head like he was some sort of chair as she tilted her upper body forward.

"Did you catch the eight piggies?" Nonon nonchalantly asks.

"... Yes!" Bob vigorously salutes.

"... Wait, how did you know they were eight? I don't think we gave that info yet..." I fold my arms as I tilt my head.

"Ehhh? I already knew who stole them. And where they were." Nonon casually 'shoos' with her hand.

(... Whut...)

"I just wanted to see if the gorilla's useless little clubs could do anything about it." She adds as she gets off her 'chair', walks up to one of the open crates, and looks inside. It's kinda funny, if not cute how she had to actually tip-toe to peek inside. But obviously, I kept my mouth shut, I liked my life thank you very much.

"Ugh, these strawberries have been touched by piggy hands. Throw them away. Or better yet." She then turns to me.

"You take them, count it as your reward." She adds as she shrugs before turning to walk back to her man chair.

"Ughh, I've had enough of this filthy place, let's go, I need to take a bath." Nonon nonchalantly waves at her minions. And they all quickly start to, jump into the helicopter? Which was still, you know, still up in the air. Aside from the chair dude that was, once again climbing the rope with the midget on his shoulder.

I glance at 'Bob', shrug slightly, and pick a punnet full of strawberries from the boxes.

"Who am I to argue? Strawberries it is..." I shrug again as I prepare myself mentally for the haul...